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HISTORY  
OF  
THIRSK, &c.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

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Search we the records of an ancient date,

MOWBRAY'S strong CASTLE forms th' eventful tale :

Read we what modern Histories relate,

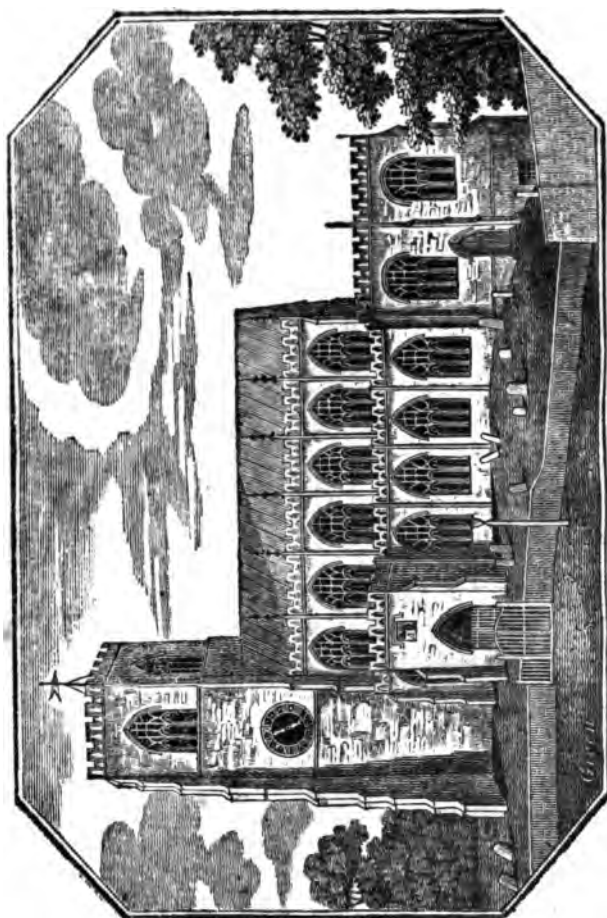
They paint the scenes of MOWBRAY'S beauteous VALE.

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**SOUTH VIEW OF THIRSK CHURCH.**

THE  
**HISTORY**  
OF  
**THIRSK;**  
INCLUDING AN  
ACCOUNT OF ITS QNCE CELEBRATED  
**CASTLE,**  
TOPCLIFFE, BYLAND, AND RIEVALX  
ABBEYS, &c. &c.  
AND  
*Other Remains of Antiquity in the Neighbourhood,*  
WITH BIOGRAPHICAL  
NOTICES OF EMINENT MEN.



BYLAND ABBEY

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**THIRSK:**  
PRINTED AND SOLD BY ROBERT FEAT; SOLD ALSO BY  
R. BURDEKIN, YORK.

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1821.

Bn 5235.123.5

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*Coolidge fund*

## **PREFACE.**

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**I**T has been said that no department in the whole range of literary composition, involves more variety and information; or is more capable of being converted to purposes of general utility, than **PROVINCIAL HISTORY.**

Much, indeed, of the information and general utility of such works, must naturally depend upon the nature of the materials, and the degree of interest which attaches to the scene of description. Yet it should seem that no town, however obscure, no vicinity, however unnoticed, is so barren as to afford no object of Antiquarian research; no subject of Historical relation.

The History of Thirsk may not be sufficient to excite the curiosity, it may fail to interest the attention of the stranger; but it is presumed, that its natives will feel anxious to preserve every particular relating to the destinies of the place. As other towns in the neighbourhood have had their Historians, its inhabitants, too, may wish to possess some information on those questions, which spontaneously arise in an intelligent mind, with regard to the origin and progress of the town.

To some persons, whose curiosity never led their enquiries beyond the bounds of their own habitations, the labour of the Compiler may indeed appear lost, *operose nihil agendo*: but to others, whose attention is laudably directed to the consideration of men and manners, any attempt to develop the History of the past, will be candidly received, and attentively perused.

For the authenticity of the narrative, various authorities are frequently adduced; and on the subjects of local description, eye-witnesses are deemed sufficient authority. The substance of

those particulars which relate the siege of Thirsk Castle, is ancient, and was furnished to the Publisher in manuscript. Some valuable information respecting the genealogy and history of the noble family of Mowbray, was furnished by the kindness of a gentleman, after the former part of the work had gone to press. It has, however, been inserted in the Appendix.

The Publisher takes this opportunity of expressing his obligations, to those gentlemen who have kindly furnished him materials for compilation; and only regrets that a greater supply of information has not fallen into his hands, to render the work more worthy of the public patronage. In such a work as this, errors and mistakes must naturally be expected, which the candid reader will know how to excuse.

To the natives, then, of the town of Thirsk; to those who, like himself, are casual residents; to all, finally, whose interest is excited by the remains of Antiquity, whose attention is directed to subjects of History; the Compiler most re-



spectfully dedicates the following pages, as an Essay towards the History of Thirsk, and the Vicinity; leaving it to the industry of a more extensive and more able investigation, to perfect and polish, what is now first presented to the public.

--- si quid novisti rectius istis,  
Candidus imperti; si non, his utere mecum.

J. B. JEFFERSON.

Thirsk, }  
Feb. 1821. }

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THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
THIRSK, &c.

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**THIRSK**, the subject of the following pages, is an ancient Borough, by prescription, situated on a small river in the Wapentake of Birdforth, in the North-riding of Yorkshire, 220 miles distant from London, and 23 and a half N. W. of York.

Thirsk (formerly written Thrusk\* and Thursk) in the termination of the name seems to present a sort of anomaly, as compared with the names of every other town in the kingdom. It is not im-

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\* Thresk and Thrusk.---Camden.

probable that it may have some reference to the Saxon god *Thor*, which occurs in so many names of places in the Neighbourhood compounded with *Thor*, *Thur*, and *Thir*.

In the 10th century, it appears to have consisted of only a few cottages, built by the vassals and retainers of the haughty Baron, whose formidable castle first gave rise to the town. The earliest return of representatives to Parliament from this borough, was in the 23rd Edward I, after which time no return was made till the last Parliament of King Edward VI., when the Sheriff of Yorkshire summoned Heydon and Thirsk to elect two members for their representation. The right of election is at present vested in the burgage tenures, to the number of 50; of which 49 are now in the hands of one proprietor.

By the brook Codbeck, the town is divided into two parts, usually denominated the old and new town. The former contains the properties which convey to their possessors the right of voting in the elections of the borough: but the latter presents a more modern appearance, and is the principal part of the town; occupying the ancient site of Thirsk Castle, from whose ruins it has undoubtedly risen. It is said that no less than ELEVEN HUNDRED\*

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\* Tablet of Memory, Capin, v. 1. p. 201.

Fortified Castles were built in this country, between the years 1140 and 1154, and more than a thousand were standing in the reign of Henry the Second. Those times exhibited little else than the disgusting scenes of intestine broils, discord, and rapine; the hateful concomitants of the feudal system: and the weakness of Stephen has justly been censured, in permitting the erection of so many fortresses, the nurseries of tumult, and the sources of contention between the Monarch and the Barons.

Thirsk Castle, however, was erected at a more distant period, and claims an antiquity of a hundred years before the Norman Conquest: and its destinies are so intimately connected with those of the town, that the history of one must comprise the history of the other.

### **THE CASTLE.**

The foundations of Thirsk Castle, which appears to have been very considerable, were laid in the last year of Edgar the Peaceable, 12th King of all England; who ascended the throne A. D. 959, and is said to have been present on the occasion. King

Edgar died the 8th July, A. D. 975, having reigned only 16 years. The building was finished at the time when Edward the Martyr, the son of the late Edgar, was murdered; which event took place in the year 979.

The Castle of Thirsk was built by the family of Mowbray, to whose Lordship the whole neighbourhood was anciently subjected. The first mention of the name in history, is after the Conquest, when we find Robert de Mowbray, a powerful Norman Baron, created Earl of Northumberland, in 1080, and afterwards joining in an unsuccessful conspiracy to depose King William Rufus, and to set up his elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy, A. D. 1089\*

To atone for his rebellion, he afterwards signalled himself in opposing the progress of a Scotch invasion, which took place in the year 1091; and proved fatal to Malcolm, King of Scotland, as also to Edward his son.

Robert de Mowbray had done the King signal service by his victory over the Scots; and being puffed up with success, he imagined that no favours

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\* Rapin's England, by Tindal, vol. I, p. 183.

could sufficiently reward so important a service. But the King expressed so little gratitude, that the Earl's haughty spirit led him to devise means to make the Monarch repent his disrespectful treatment. Nothing less could satisfy his revenge, than the dethroning of William Rufus, and setting the crown on the head of Stephen, Earl of Albemarle, grandson of William the Conqueror. He drew into this plot a great number of Lords, who also were dissatisfied with the harsh and scornful behaviour of the King. William besieged the Castle of Bamborough, where Mowbray was, who fled to Tynemouth, and there fell into the hands of his enemies. The fortress was then surrendered, and Robert de Mowbray was confined in Windsor Castle, where he remained a prisoner thirty years.\* His estates were confiscated to the crown.

Henry, younger brother of King William II. was crowned the 5th of August, 1100, under the title of Henry I., surnamed Beau-clerc. The estates which had been forfeited by Robert de Mowbray, Governor of Northumberland, and owner of Thirsk Castle, to the late King William Rufus, were now given to Nigel Albani,† who, being a Mowbray by

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\* Rapin, by Tindal, vol. I. p. 186.

† William de Mowbray, whose heir was Nigel Albani, founded a Chapel and Chantry in Thirsk, dedi-

his mother's side, directed his son Roger to assume the title of Mowbray. This Roger de Mowbray was the founder of Byland Abbey\* and other religious houses in Yorkshire, to the number of thirty-five.

"The family of these *Mowbrays* was as considerable as any for power, honour, and wealth: they possessed very great estates, with the Castles of *Slingsby*, *Thresk*, and others, in these parts. The rise of this family was in short thus:---*Roger de Mowbray* Earl of Northumberland, and *R. de Grandebeof*, being for disloyalty deprived of their estates, King Henry the first gave a great part of them to *Nigell de Albenie* (descended from the same family with the *Albenies* Earls of Arundell) a man of very noble extraction among the Normans. He was Bow-bearer to William Rufus, and enriched to that degree by him, that he had in England 140 Knights' fees, and in Normandy 120. His son Roger was also commanded by him to take the

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cated to St. Nicholas, which had connexions with the Abbey of Newburgh. Some remains of a Chantry were supposed to be standing with an inscription upon them, so lately as the year 1784, constituting the Parlour of the late Keeper of the House of Correction. Chantries were dissolved in the 1st Edward VI. by Act of Parliament, and their endowments vested in the Crown.---Gent. Mag. April, 1782.

\* "Belleland, commonly called Biland."---Camden's Brit.



name of *Mowbray*, from whom the Mowbrays Earls of Nottingham, and the Dukes of Norfolk, are descended."\*

In the third year of the reign of King Stephen, who was crowned at Westminster, the 26th December, 1135; Roger de Mowbray distinguished himself in a battle fought against the Scots, near Northallerton, commonly designated *The Battle of the Standard*: and on Candlemas-day, 1140, was taken prisoner by Matilda, at the battle of Lincoln;† but when the Queen and her son Henry were obliged to retire into Normandy, the prisoners obtained their liberty.

A. D. 1147, Lewis the Young, King of France, led a body of troops to the Holy Land. He was attended, among others, by Roger de Mowbray, who signalised himself in this expedition.‡

At the accession of Henry II. to the throne of England, the condition of the English Boroughs was greatly improved by the privileges granted them during the struggle between their late Kings and the Nobility. Henry perceived the good policy of this circumstance, and still further extended their privileges to such a degree, that if a bondman

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\* Camden's *Britannia*, by Gibson, 1695, c. 757.

† Rapin, vol. I, p. 206.

‡ Rapin, vol. I, p. 208, and note (15.)

or servant resided in any borough a year and a day, he was by such residence made a freeman. The King was resolved, however, to demolish the Castles of those Barons, who had been the promoters of these conspiracies, which had disturbed the reigns of his predecessors; and had aimed at his own dethronement. Roger de Mowbray was among the conspirators, who, in 1173, had opposed the King, and wished to place his son upon the throne. The Rebels were however defeated, and compelled to retire to their fortresses. The Castle of Northallerton\* was besieged by the King, and obliged to capitulate, and the same fate, it appears, befel also the Castle of Thirsk.

This strong and warlike fortress, whose formidable walls overlooked the few houses which composed the town of Thirsk, was of immense magnitude, and inferior to few in the Kingdom, for the magnificence of its external appearance, as well as the sumptuous grandeur of the interior. Its towers were high and numerous, and of such excellent stone, that they at once displayed all the richness of gothic architecture, and all the durability so necessary to preserve them from the rage and violence of the feudal times, to which they were subjected.

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\* Rapin, vol. I, p. 238.

The large domains of the Mowbrays, which lay near the scene of Henry's successes, had been exposed to all his fury; from which it was impossible to guard them any length of time. But Mowbray was always well provided with stores for a siege, and the most orderly discipline was observed among his troops, which generally amounted to 500 effective men, who were willing at any time to lay down their lives for their valiant leader, and would have thought them richly bestowed. The castle itself was a noble pile of building, uniting the magnificence of a royal palace, with the strength and security of an impregnable fortress. The soldiers were sprung from the different clans of the Mowbrays, and with their warlike leader had often fought valiantly and successfully, and had defended with fidelity incorruptible, the rights of their beloved commander. This castle of Thirsk, from its enormous size, was a guide to the North, from all the abbeyes and small castles which surrounded it. To the Eastward, from its lofty turrets, a romantic and diversified prospect was seen of the rugged steeps of Hambleton. Near those rocks, was a hermitage on Hood Hill; connected with Whitby Abbey, and founded by the family of Mowbray. Beyond Felixkirk, on Mount St John, stood a Preceptory of the Knights of St, John of Jerusalem, founded by William Percy, in the preceeding reign, and which was afterwards granted in exchange by Henry VIII, to the Archbishop of York. Northwards was the castle of Upa

sall, now also in ruins ; reported to have been first built on the spot where had been discovered a treasure hidden in the ground, and from whose ruins the more modern mansion, New-building, seems to have arisen. Six miles East of Upsall Castle, was the noble abbey of Rievalle, now Rivalx, near Helmsley. This abbey was founded in the year 1181, in the reign of King Henry I., by Walter de Espec, a Baron of high rank and ample possessions ; who introduced the Cistercians into the North of England, by founding this abbey of Rievalle, which he peopled with monks from Clarevalle. This was the head of the surrounding abbeys of Byland, Fountains, Hood Hill, St. Mary's, and Jervis ; and was also the burial place of Walter de Espec. To the West from the turrets of Thirsk Castle, was seen a wide view of the Western Hills, in a state of higher cultivation than those to the Eastward. Amongst these hills was situated the town of Ripon : farther onwards, the celebrated abbey of Fountains, which owed its origin to the separation of some monks from the Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary's at York, who embraced the rule of Cistercians, and established themselves in this abbey, whose patron Saint was St. Bernard the Abbot of Clarevalle. It is observable, that in the year 1526. William Thirske,\* B. D. was the Abbot

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\* As it was not unusual for ecclesiastics to take their names from the places of their nativity, it is highly

of Fountains Abbey.\* To the South were seen the towers of the castle of Topcliffe, the seat of

probable that this celebrated character, was a native of our borough of Thirsk. Truth obliges us to make rather an unfavourable report respecting him, but we copy the words of Henry Percy, the Sixth Earl of Northumberland: "The Abbot of Fountains do'th not indeavour himself lyke a discrete father towards the said convent and the profet of the hous; but haith, against the same, as well solde and wastyd the great parte of all theyre store in cataill, as alsoe theyre wooddis in dyverse contries, &c., &c."

Your's, assury'd,  
This xxvj day of June. H NORTHUMBERLAND."

"To my bed fellow Arondell."

One of the visitors reports of him thus:

"Please your worship to understand that the Abbot of Fountans hath so greatly dilapidate his house, wasted ye woods, notoriously keeping six whores; and six days before our coming, he committed theft and sacrilege, confessing the same; for at midnight he caused his chaplain to stele the keys of the sexton, and took out a jewel, a cross of gold with stones; one Warren, a goldsmyth of the Chepe, was with him in his chamber at the hour; and there they stole out a great emerode with a rubye. The said Warren made the Abbot believe the rubye was a garnet, and so for that he paid nothing, for the emerode but £20. He sold him also plate without weight or ounces. (Subscribed)

Your's, &c.

"From Richmont,  
(in Com' Ebor') the 20th Jan."

R. LAYTON.

This Abbot, as well as some others, was executed at Tyburn on an accusation of being concerned in the insurrection in Yorkshire. Some have been supposed to suffer on false charges, but Burnet says, "It was believed that most of the great Abbots cherished it."---Vide Hist. of Ripon, part 2, p. 184.

\* Different grants to the monks of Fountains Abbey,

Earl Percy, a strong fortress, and noted for its beautiful pleasure-grounds. To the left was the castle of Hinderkill, near Sheriff Hutton,\* which was built by the Barons de Greystock, at the time Fountains Abbey was built, and called by some, from the number of springs surrounding it, Hundred Skell.† Farther still was the castle of Craike, and still more distant, the stupendous cathedral of York closed the view from the turrets of Thirsk, sublimed by the grand outline of the Hambleton Hills; wild in its bolder features, but yet abounding with the sylvan scenery of the vale of Mowbray, beautifully variegated, and widely extended.

The castle, with its outworks, occupied four acres of ground; but now scarce a stone remains upon another, to mark the scene of all this bustle and confusion. The view, on passing the grand entrance, was calculated to strike terror into the beholder. The ponderous iron gates turned heavily on their hinges, "grating harsh thunder." The courts were filled with the warriors of the Mowbrays, who nightly traversed the ramparts, to keep diligent watch over the inmates of the castle, and to prevent a surprisal by lurking violence.

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by the family of Mowbray, are recorded in Hargrove's Hist. of Knaresborough.

\* "Built by Bertrand de Bulmer."--Camden.

† Camden.

The great hall was of spacious dimensions; and its decorations were of exquisite workmanship; hung with waving banners, the fruits of hard earned victory; it was the glory and delight of the assembled chieftains, at the sumptuous banquet, to recount the days that were past, the battles where those bloody trophies had been won, and the valiant achievements of their departed ancestors. The scene is finely described by the poet of antiquity, "The night passed away in song: morning returned in joy. A thousand chiefs leaned forward from their seats, to hear the voice of the bard."\* The grand stair-case was likewise of curious workmanship; its carved work displayed the hand of an ingenious artist; and all the other principal rooms were proportionally superb; particularly those of the South Wing; as became the owner of such large domains.

In Roger de Mowbray, the unfortunate always found a friend; one that not only pitied their misfortunes, but also used his endeavours to relieve them: in battle he was valiant, and like a genuine hero, spread slaughter and destruction around him. He was of lofty stature; and his noble mien and condescending manners won him many friends: amongst them unfortunately was the son of his

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\* Ossian.



**Sovereign:** this Prince so insinuated himself into the affections of Roger, as to be the occasion of his greatest troubles, in attempting to raise the son to the throne of his father.\*

In the reign of King Henry II; his son Henry was assigned an equal share in the Government with himself, and afterwards rebelled against his father. The said Roger de Mowbray joined with the party of the son in this attempt which proved unsuccessful. Sir Roger having escaped to Alnwick, and fearing that his castle of Thirsk would be attacked immediately by the King, instantly dispatched a messenger to his Nephew, John de Mowbray, informing him that their plans had proved abortive, and of his fears respecting Thirsk; but charged him on his salvation, not to surrender the castle, should King Henry's troops demand it; as he was raising some men amongst the degraded Barons, and doubted not, in the course of a short

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\* "THRESK, commonly THURSK, had formerly a very strong castle, where Roger de Mowbray began his rebellion, and call'd in the King of Scots to the destruction of his country; King Henry the second having very unadvisedly DIGG'D HIS OWN GRAVE, by taking his son into an equal share of the government and royalty. But this sedition was, at last as it were QUENCHT with blood, and the castle utterly demolished, so that I could see nothing of it there, besides the rampire."—Camden's *Britannia*, 1695, 756.

time, to bring some soldiers to its relief; being determined to withstand the utmost vengeance his enraged sovereign could inflict.

John received with great regret the news of the failure of these plans of his Uncle, and of the other Nobles who were engaged with him in the enterprise. He was determined, at all events, however, not to give up the possession to an enemy, and to sell his life at as dear a rate as possible.

In every part of the castle, all was now bustle and confusion, and in preparation for the assault which was shortly expected. Every entrance was well guarded, the most orderly discipline observed in the garrison, and scouts were dispatched in all directions.

On the evening of the 8th of March, in the year 1175, a strolling party from the castle surprised a King's messenger from the army, near Topcliffe Castle, who was on his route to Dunbar: when brought prisoner to Thirsk, he informed them that Lord de Valence was marching at the head of ten thousand men, to reduce all those rebellious castles in the hands of private persons; suffering only those to stand, which were necessary for the defence of his Sovereign Lord's dominions; and that the troops of Henry were expected to be at York on the 12th; the very day on which Roger de

Mowbray expected to arrive at his ancestral castle of Thirsk, with a considerable reinforcement. How dauntless was the determination of the man! With a handful of troops, he hoped to conquer a host of foes; though he could not but despair of a long resistance to his powerful enemy, as Henry was resolved to chastise the insolence of the Barons, and make them subject and submissive to his sovereign will.

All passed on quietly at the castle till the night of the 11th of March: they were eagerly expecting the arrival of Sir Roger and his troops; when the sentinel on duty at the highest turret espied the troops of Lord de Valence coming from Easingwold, after reducing Craike and Hinderskell Castles, and peopling them with their own men: yet John was determined to resist King Henry's attacks. "Undoubtedly," said he, "the lives of my family are forfeited; why then should I yield tamely to my fate? Much better will it be that I should bravely die, in defence of our rights and liberties." He therefore retired for the night, after having seen the gates secured, and the sentinels posted on their respective stations.

John arose in the morning, after passing a sleepless night, not at all benefitted by his rest: having buckled on his armour, he examined the respective wards, and found all in battle array. He com-

manded the standards of the house to be brought; and, having planted them in the midst of the great hall, he called a general assembly of the knights and warriors, who received him with tumultuous applause as he thus addressed them:

“Warriors and Friends! I have assembled you here, to ascertain if you are ready to defend with me this fortress. I fully expect my Uncle this day, with the troops he has promised to bring; but the King’s army is now encamped on Felixkirk Moor; and I suppose they intend to attack this castle at sunset. I, therefore, wish to know if you will remain true to my standard; if not, you are at full liberty to retire from the duties which will otherwise be imposed upon you.”

They all declared, with one consent, that they would not surrender the castle, while one drop of blood flowed in their veins: and each retired to his station.

Shortly after, a herald appeared at the gate, and sounding a blast, demanded a parley. John de Mowbray ascended the battlements of the lofty gates, and leaning over the parapet, listened to the hostile commission of the King’s messenger, “Lord de Valence,” he announced, “wages not war with the feeble; he commands this castle to be delivered

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up to him, or the ruin of it is inevitable; yield to him the castle, and you may expect such mercy as obedience deserves; but should you and your people rashly dare to brave his anger, and disdain the mild clemency of these terms, the chastisement of war will quickly teach you the danger of an obstinate resistance: and an ignominious death awaits the traitorous offenders." "Say to your commander," John firmly replied, "that I value not his threats, and that I will defend the castle to the last extremity. You have your answer."

The herald quickly disappeared; all now assumed the formidable aspect of a brave defence; and the most determined spirit of loyalty to their commander seemed to prevail throughout the castle.

No attempt was made on the castle that night; but at dawn of day the following morning a messenger arrived in breathless haste with the doleful tidings of the total defeat of Roger de Mowbray, near Northallerton, by the King's troops, who were marching from Bernard Castle to meet the forces of Lord de Valence, and make one strong body to crush the sons of rebellion; but that Roger had escaped, favoured by the darkness of night, and had not been discovered by the enemy. This bad news was a great damp to John, as it was now impossible

for him to defend the castle with success, those supplies being cut off, and the army of Lora de Valence nearly at the gates.

At noon the royal armies were in possession of the castle, which was surrendered by the general consent of the garrison. John de Mowbray was conveyed prisoner to Craike Castle, and there confined; but at the accession of Richard to the throne (the eldest surviving son of Henry II,) he was released, and reinstated in those possessions which had been forfeited by his Uncle, Sir Roger de Mowbray.

After his defeat at Northallerton, Roger de Mowbray went a second time to the Holy Land; where he remained during the remainder of Henry's reign. In the second year of Richard Cœur de Lion, on the 12th day of July, A. D. 1191, the city of St. John de Acre surrendered to the armies of the Crusaders, under the command of the King of England, and Philip of France. No less than 300,000 Pilgrims are said to have perished in this expensive siege of two years; among whom were very many Princes and noble personages, whose armorial bearings still retain some badge of this Holy War, as *Escallop Shells, Stars, Crescents, and Crosses*. The escutcheon now visible at the S. E. angle of the tower of Thirsk Church, and which is commonly ascribed to the family of Mowbray, bears to this

day a *Cross moline*, which may possibly have been the honourable distinction bestowed on the valiant achievements of Sir Roger in the crusade of Richard the First.

The arms of Lord Dacre, the Earl of Lincoln, the families of St. John, Minshul, Tilney, Mowbray, &c. are recorded on the page of History\* as distinguished by this lasting memorial of their ancestors' mistaken piety and fruitless valour.

On the 13th, Acre was equally divided between the two Kings of England and France. The Earls and Barons who attended them in this expedition, desired that they also might be sharers in the gains, as they had been in the labours and dangers of this destructive siege: but as they received no satisfaction, most of them were compelled to sell their arms and return homewards. Probably Roger de Mowbray might be among the number; for we find that he retired shortly after to the solitude of Byland, for the remainder of his days; where, after a short illness, he departed this life; and was buried in the chapter-house of that abbey.

After the lapse of more than 600 years, Martin Stapylton Esq. discovered, from ancient MSS.,

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\* Rapin by Tindal, 1, 250, note (3.)

† Martin Stapylton, Esq. is lineally descended from



the exact place in Byland Abbey, where lay the bones of the illustrious Roger, which he caused to be disinterred, and conveyed them in his carriage to be deposited at Myton, in the month of July, 1819. Fragments of the coffin, and small pieces of the bones, &c. were obtained by different persons; and are now preserved by their possessors with the veneration of relics.

King Henry II., who was at Northampton when the castle of Thirsk was taken, made use of the peaceable times which succeeded, to demolish all the fortified castles still remaining in private hands, which had been so great a check upon the power of the Sovereign. Thirsk Castle was involved in the calamity; and the halls of feudal magnificence were levelled with the dust.

“Hark! the loud engines tear the trembling walls,  
And from its base the massive fabric falls,  
And all at once these ancient honours fade;  
These lofty towers, and all these noble spoils  
Sink into silence, ’midst intestine broils  
In prostrate ruins lost, and dark oblivion laid.”

The only remaining vestiges yet retain the appellation of The Castle Yard: and the subterranean

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Sir Miles Stapylton, one of the original Knights of the Garter; and also from Beatrice, daughter of King Henry III.

vaults having some years since given way, caused the earth to subside about four feet at the surface. If the spot were explored, something curious might possibly be discovered, well worthy of the undertaking.

The remaining ruins are so many memorials of the vanity of earthly grandeur, which, like man himself, is humbled and laid low in the tomb of oblivion, and frequently irrecoverably lost, even to the exertions of the most diligent security. *Etiam ipsæ periere ruinæ.* The very ruins are decayed and lost.

With this period the History of Thirsk Castle closes for ever; its later destinies seem to be beneath the notice of History; and to have escaped the search of the curious. Its venerable remains are well worthy the examination of the antiquary; and the vestiges of departed greatness cannot but excite a melancholy pleasure in the breast of the visitor.

If Thirsk and Upsal Castles in our own neighbourhood, and many others in the kingdom, no longer exhibit their warlike towers and stately walls in a posture of defence, we are thankful they are no longer needful. Now, we behold in the aspect of nobility, a philanthropy and benignity

diffusing real blessings, in the patronage of every institution, which has for its object the instruction of the ignorant, the relief of suffering humanity, and the general amelioration of society. The benign influence of Christianity has produced the pleasing change.

RESUMING the History of the family of Mowbray, we find William de Mowbray,\* A. D. 1199, suspected of favouring the claims of Arthur, Duke of Bretagne, in opposition to those of King John, for the throne of England: but by the promise of restoring to them all their rights, the hostile lords were prevailed on to take the oath of fealty to John. The name of William de Mowbray stands honourably recorded, as one of the nobility who demanded a charter of that King. A. D. 1214.†

Roger de Mowbray, who died in the fifty-first year of Henry III., A. D. 1267, was interred in the priory of dominicans at Pontefract ‡

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\* Rapin, I, 250, note (3.)

† Rapin, I, 275, note (2.)

‡ Boothroyd's History of Pontefract, 340.

In the reign of Edward II., John de Mowbray, Governor of York, was ordered to array all the fencible men within the wapentake of Staincross, to attend the King's expedition to Scotland. He was one of the barons who opposed the King's favourites, the Spencers; but was taken by the royal army, at the battle of Boroughbridge, A. D. 1321, and with two others, was executed at York, and hung in chains by a sentence passed against them by the King, at Pontefract Castle. The cause of this civil war, which drenched the scaffolds with noble blood to such an extraordinary degree as has not since been witnessed, was the King's obnoxious fondness for the favourites, who were the objects of popular odium, on account of their oppressions and haughty demeanor. During this reign, in the neighbourhood of Thirsk were fought against the Scots, the battles of Myton on the Swale, Northallerton, Boroughbridge, Knaresborough, and Ripon: Northallerton and Ripon were ransomed by Edward for 1000 marks each; but Knaresborough was totally burnt by the victorious Scots.

"To BOROUGHBRIDGE, by East and West he\* brent  
And home agayne, with many a prysoner,  
Without harme or lette of his entent  
With mykell good, but in Myton meadowe nere  
To SWALE water, laye then with great power

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\* Robert Bruce.

WALTER WAREYN among the hay kockes bushed,  
 Upon the Byshop\* sodenly with Scottes yssued."  
 Hardyng's Chron. Edward II.  
 Fol. 172, col 2.

A battle was fought near Northallerton in the reign of Stephen, Aug. 22, 1133, and on other days of the same year, skirmishes have taken place near that town.

John de Mowbray, at his death was found to hold the manor of Thirsk, *in capite* of the King, which by favour of King Edward III. was restored to his son John in the year 1327, who was afterwards present at the memorable battle of Crecy. At the coronation of Richard II., A. D. 1377, the title of Earl of Nottingham was conferred upon the head of the house of Mowbray, which descended to his brother Thomas in the 6th of the same King. Thomas was distinguished, A. D. 1378, by his opposition to an invasion of the Scots; but was afterwards blamed as an accessory to King Richard's design of murdering the Earls of Arundel and Warwick, and the good Duke of Gloucester. He was, however, induced by the King's haughty demeanour, to resign his command as Admiral of England, together with the Earl of Arundel,† A. D. 1387, and was doomed

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\* Archbishop of York.

† Rapin I, 463.

by the arbitrary Monarch to feel the effects of his resentment, with Arundel, Gloucester, Warwick, and Derby, but the Parliament afterwards passed an act granting a general pardon. During the reign of this Prince, John de Mowbray was also created Duke of Norfolk; but the heirs male failing, his estates passed to the families of Berkley and Howard, to whom the title descended by intermarriages.\*

John de Mowbray, it appears, was present also at the memorable battle of Agincourt, and the siege of Harfleur. And his successors are frequently mentioned on the page of history, as filling various situations and offices of honour and profit.

In the year 1402, the Earl of Northumberland (a Mowbray) having received as he thought, an injury and affront from the new King, Henry IV., raised the standard of revolt, and was the cause of the bloody battle of Shrewsbury. Ungrateful for the free pardon he received from the King after this battle, he a second time rebelled, and with Lord Bardolf raised an army in Scotland to invade England. They entered Yorkshire, and set up their hostile standard at Thirsk, declaring their object to be the restoration of Edward Mortimer, Earl of March, who, their manifesto asserted, had been

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\* Rapin I, 637, note (3.)

unjustly detained from the Crown. Sir Thomas Rokely, Sheriff of York, engaged the rebels with what troops he could raise for the emergency; and so successfully, that Mowbray was slain on the spot, and Lord Bardolf was captured, so severely wounded, that he died in the course of a few days. This battle was fought near Haslewood, on Bramham Moor, Feb. 19, 1408. The Abbot of Hales being taken in arms, was hanged at York, with many others of his party; and the heads of the two lords were sent to the King, and exhibited upon London-bridge.\* On account of the number of Ecclesiastics robed in their *Surplices*, slain in this battle, it has usually been denominated the *White Battle*.

A. D. 1469, an insurrection in favour of the House of Lancaster broke out in Yorkshire, which John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, was summoned by King Edward IV. to quell. The royal army, under the command of the Earl of Pembroke and other distinguished leaders, proved finally unsuccessful in the battle of Banbury, July 26, 1469.†

\* Another flame of rebellion likewise broke out here, in King Henry the Seventh's reign, A. D.

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\* Rapin I, 499.

† Rapin I, 605, note (7.)

1488. For the lawless rabble repining most grievously at that time, that a small subsidy was laid on them by the Parliament, drove away the collectors of it, and forthwith (as such madness, upon the least success, spurs on without end or aim) fell here" (at Thirsk) "upon *Henry Percie, Earl of Northumberland*, who was Lieutenant of this County, and killed him: then, under the conduct of *John Egremont*, their leader, took up arms against their King and Country. Yet it was not long before they were brought to such heavy punishments as were due to them."\* *John a Chambre*, of Thirsk, was a distinguished ring-leader in this insurrection. The rebels were reduced by the Earl of Surry; and John was executed at York with a score of his accomplices: but was graced by the honourable distinction of hanging twenty feet above the heads of his fellows.

About the time Thirsk Castle was built, there was erected a small watch tower at Sowerby, another at Felixkirk, another at Kirby-Wiske, and another at Pickhill. From those towers the lofty turrets of Thirsk Castle were discerned, and when an enemy was near they could alarm the castle by their blazing cressets, whose bright flame was seen for miles around, and soon discovered by the sentinels

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\* Gibson's Camden, 756.



on watch at the castle. The mount, near Sowerby, on which this watch tower was erected, is still remaining: though some have taken it for a sepulchral tumulus, raised by the Danes after a battle, as human bones have been dug up at its foot.

Such *tumuli* are frequently met with, both separately, and connected; sometimes extending in a long line placed at regular distances. The erection of a sepulchral tumulus is finely pourtrayed by the Poet, who coloured from nature, and may be quoted as an authority: "I took a stone from the stream, amidst the song of bards. The blood of Fingal's foes hung curdled in its ooze. Beneath, I placed, at intervals, three bosses from the shields of foes, as rose or fell the sound of Ullin's nightly song. Toscar laid a dagger in earth, a mail of sounding steel. *We raised the mould around the stone, and bade it speak to other years.*"\*

Closing the eventful History of the Town of Thirsk and its Castle, which are so intimately connected with the family of Mowbray, it is a melancholy reflection that the page of History, even that small portion of it which relates to a comparatively obscure town, is none other than the relation of crimes and bloodshed. It is recorded of our celebrated moralist, Dr. Samuel Johnson, that, being asked why he did not more frequently

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\* Ossian.

read History, he replied, "I do not love to read the **ANNALS OF BLOOD.**" The 'recording angel' may well 'drop a tear,' when such subjects are presented to his pen: Happy would it be, could a thousand tears wash away the crimes which it is the business of the Historic Muse, faithfully to transmit in impartial colours, to the eye of posterity!

" O'er History's lengthening course  
The vein of persevering fury runs;  
And he that reads its pages, rightly calls them  
**Records of Carnage, Chronicles of Blood.**"

In a survey of the town, as it now appears, the traveller is naturally led to begin with

### THE MARKET PLACE:

Which is a large square of noble dimensions, and consisting of many good houses, but unfortunately disfigured by some buildings in the centre. The toll-booth, or town-hall, the shambles, and several other buildings occupy the middle of the market place, on each side of the cross.

The **Cross** is an ancient square column of the Doric order, erected on an ascent of four steps. The shaft is nine feet in height, bearing on the cornice of its capital, four dials, facing the four cardinal points of the Horizon. Though far from elegant, the cross is venerable as a relic of antiquity.

In the **TOLL BOOT**, is transacted the business of the manor of Thirsk, by the appointed officers. The municipal government of the town, is vested in a bailiff, who is chosen by the burgage holders, and is sworn in by the steward of the Lord of the manor; for whom he holds a court-leet once in the year, at Michaelmas. The present Lord of the manor is **JOHN BELL, Esquire, of Thirsk.**

An extensive circle for the purpose of bull baiting, yet remains, with the ring,---a monument of barbarity which is now happily abolished.

From the market place,

## WEST GATE

leads to Boroughbridge, Ripon, and Sowerby.

Leaving the town for York, the road passes through

### FINCLE STREET,

[Vincle, Danish ; an angle or corner.] \* i. e. a street near the corner of the town. In the towns of Stockton-upon-Tees, Knaresborough, Hull, Richmond, Carlisle, Workington, and Portinscale, near Keswick, this ancient name is given to a street.

Fincle Street leads to an elegant stone bridge of three arches, formerly very narrow, till it was lately considerably widened, and is now a strong and ornamental fabric, of sufficient magnitude to admit the violent floods, which are caused by the heavy rains, and melting snows of winter. The river which divides the old from the new town, is named *Cod-beck*, or *Caudebeck*, from the Celtic. *cod* a forest, and *bec* the embouchure of a river, denoting a *river skirted with wood*.† There is a river in Normandy also spelled *Caudebec*.

Were a stranger to travel over our bridges in the heat of summer, he might justly wonder at the

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\* Hargrove's Knaresborough, 6th Ed. p. 59.

† Bullet, Celtic Dict. Hutchinson's Hist. of Cumberland, vol. 2, p. 374.

size and number of the arches across so small a stream. But let him come this way at the time of a winter flood, and there will be abundant proof that they are not too large for the overflowing torrent pouring from the higher hills. The lines descriptive of another bridge and river, may be applied to the present subject :

Nil——habet musis vel carmine dignum,  
Præter magnifice structum sine flumine pontem ;  
Quæ——erat sine flumine pulvere plena,  
Nunc habet immensum fluvium, et pro pulvere lutum.

Nov. 3d, 1754, Thirsk bridge was entirely washed down by a tremendous inundation, unequalled in the memory of the oldest inhabitants. Great damage was sustained by the inhabitants whose property was situated near the banks of the river. A sudden rise of the river Rye on the same day, happened at Helmsley, by which two houses were entirely destroyed, and their inmates, to the number of thirteen persons perished; one woman who was ill in bed, only, escaping. She was conveyed safely in bed, by the violence of the stream, half a mile down the river, and at last washed on shore into a field where she was found the next morning. Other houses were seriously injured, as was also the stone-bridge at the entrance of the town. Fourteen hay stacks were driven away by the waters, upon one

of which sailed in safety a fine calf, which was extricated at length from its perilous situation. The garden walls and part of those of the park, the property of Charles Duncomb, Esq. were also demolished, with two bridges at Rivalx. A mill, built upon the river Rye, was destroyed, with a tan-yard at Helmsley.

After this terrible catastrophe, the present bridge in Finsle Street was erected.

Over the battlements of this bridge, on the South side is the WHARF, where a strong pier remains with commodious stairs, erected for the purpose of navigation, in the year 1768. According to the survey of the Brook Codbeck, from Thirsk to the River Swale, which was taken by Mr Richard Firth, and re-surveyed and corrected by Mr Isaac Milbourne, in 1767, there should have been five Locks on the river, to establish a navigation to Topcliffe; as follows, from the Section of the Country, formed from the levels of John Grundy, engineer;

From the River Swale to Thirsk Bridge.

1st Canal or reach,		1st Lock 9 feet high	
2nd	do. do.	2nd	do. 8 do.
3rd	do. do.	3rd	do. 7 do.
4th	do. do.	4th	do. 7 do.
5th	do. do.	5th	do. 7 do.

and from the last lock, or 6th reach, the barges should have come into Thirsk Wharf. The lock called Sowerby Lock, was demolished, and made into a bridge, now termed the Lock-bridge. The plan was certainly calculated to promote the interests of the town, but the work was for certain reasons suspended, and has not again been resumed.

Proceeding over the Bridge, INGRAMGATE leads in a direct line to the Helmsley Road; and to the right the entrance to the town called BARBECK, q. d. *Barbican*,\* is upon the road to York. To the left the Stockton and Sunderland Road passes through

## LONG STREET,

a wide and commodious street, 440 yards in length. To the laudable improvements of some late surveyors of the high-ways, the town is indebted for

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\* "Barbicans were watch towers, designed to descry an enemy at a distance, and were always out-works, and frequently advanced beyond the ditch, to which they were joined by draw-bridges."

A street in London is named Barbican, which Stow says, was so called from a watch tower formerly there, which in some language is called a Barbican.

the advantages,' with which in this, and many other parts of Thirsk, the public are now accommodated.

This street constitutes a considerable part of the Old Town; some houses now standing in it are of great antiquity: towards the Northern extremity, stands the Work-house, which bears marks of an age, to which few houses can pretend. Two inhabitants of this street, died about the end of the year 1819, who were opposite neighbours, and both of whom had attained the uncommon age of ninety-five years: both named John Harrison, but not anywise related. POORHOUSE LANE leads out of Long Street into

#### ST. JAMES'S GREEN,

a spacious and healthy area, which has lately undergone great improvements, in the way of levelling and covering with gravel. Upon or near this square stood an ancient Chantry dedicated to St. James, and founded by William de Mowbray, in the reign of Henry I., from which this part of Old Thirsk has been named. No vestige of this building now remains; but within the memory of many still living, there stood an old house in



St. James's Green, with an antique ponderous door, studded with large nails, supposed to have been an old church door, which might possibly have once belonged to St. James's Chapel. Human bones have been found in digging near the Old Elm Tree, which seems to prove that there may have been a place of burial attached to the ancient chapel.

Till the year 1818, a venerable Elm, which had been planted near the porch, was the wonder and ornament of the Green ; when on the night of the 5th of November, it being nearly dead, was luckily consumed by the mischievous sport usual on that celebrated occasion. The ancient Elm Tree, being the property of JOHN BELL, Esq. Lord of the Manor of Thirsk, supplied its owner, in some of its undecayed branches, with materials for two substantial smoking chairs, which have been made with a Legend, cut in relief on each, 'The Old Elm Tree, 1820.'

Monarch of Elms ! now prostrate on the ground !

Long had'st thou brav'd the fiercest wintry blast ;

But when the flames thy aged roots surround,

Thine ancient grandeur falls subdu'd at last.

In vain had time and storms their pow'r essay'd,

Thy hollow'd trunk to smite with deadly wound ;

Youth grown to age might in the grave be laid,

Ere vegetable death thy branches found.

What varying changes human life has seen,  
 Since first thy planted root in earth was plac'd;  
 Farewell! for now no more thy branches green  
 With spring's returning honours shall be grac'd.

Man falls like Thee! but man again shall rise,  
 And flourish in fair verdure in the skies.

It should be observed, that beneath this tree the elections of members for this borough were accustomed to be held. Some young trees have been planted on the spot, to supply its place. Leaving St. James's Green,

### MILLGATE

leads over another stone bridge of three arches into the market-place. There are also three wooden bridges over the river; one of which, originally constructed by an individual, is called *Folly Bridge*, but improperly, as it is a convenient structure. Many edifices have been called *Follies*. This is ancient; for the castle begun at the suggestion of Hubert de Burgo in Wales, in 1228, was named by himself *Stultitia Huberti*, and proved to be so at last\*. Again, passing the market place, the Great North Road to Edinburgh leads through

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\* Dr. Pegge's *Anonymiana*.

## KIRKGATE.

The traveller can scarcely fail to notice an ancient house in KIRKGATE, which has sometimes attracted the attention of the curious, the front of which is stuccoed, and ornamented with a variety of figures of arabesque work, some of which are in tolerable preservation.\*

This street, as its name imports, leads towards

## THE CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and appears to be partly ancient, and partly of a modern date. The living is a perpetual curacy in the gift of his Grace the Archbishop of York; Matthew Butterwick, Esq. of Thirsk, is the Lay Rector.

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\* A few years ago, a curious remain of ancient carving was discovered in the pannels of a door of oak, in a small tenement near the market place. It consists of two carved personages in ancient costume, with square shaped beards; well executed, with the date 1417; in excellent preservation. They are now in the possession of a gentleman, who has had them placed in the pannel door of an elegant new cabinet.

It is a handsome structure of the order of architecture, commonly termed *Gothic*, though some eminent antiquaries have stated that the term *English* should be substituted as more appropriate; since there is little doubt that the high-pointed arch struck from two centres, was first invented in this country. The poet MASON coincides in this opinion;

“-----A Mansion rose  
 IN ANCIENT ENGLISH grandeur---  
 Coeval with those rich Cathedral fanes,  
 (GOTHIC ILL NAMED.)-----”      ENG. GARDEN.

The view of the church which is gradually presented to the traveller in passing through Kirkgate, has been deservedly admired; the appearance of this building is extremely fine in every point of view; but from the steps leading up to the altar, the internal prospect is peculiarly grand, presenting to the eye a lofty and extended vista of Gothic arches, terminated by the organ, which corresponds in its decorations with that majestic order of architecture. The internal length is 160 feet, and the length of the cross aisle 60 feet.

The tower, which is about 80 feet in height, is a plain structure, surmounted by an open parapet of ornamental appearance, corresponding to the battlements which surround the whole roof of the church. It is supported at the angles by buttresses.

of vast solidity, presenting a profile far from elegant. On the West side is preserved a niche, containing an image of the Blessed Virgin and the infant Jesus, doubtless more ancient than the tower, and probably belonging to an older building. The belfry contains no more than four bells: the deep mellow tone of the tenor is justly deserving of admiration.

The large bell, which tradition reports to have come from Fountains Abbey, is the most ancient of the four, and bears the following inscription in beautiful Old English Capitals:---

\* Anno \* milleno \* quater \* cento \* quoque \*  
 den \* est \* hec \* camp \*  
 o ana \* iesus \*

It was the practice of the Romish Church not only to consecrate, but also to baptize bells for religious uses, appointing them both names and sponsors.\* These consecrated bells were held to be sovereign antidotes against all magical conjurations, apparitions, thunder-storms, tempests, &c. Their various uses are described in the following couplet:

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\* Stopford's Pagano-Papismus, 146:

"Funera plango, fulgura frango, sabbata pangō,  
Excito lentos, dissipo ventos, paco cruentos."

The bell now under consideration, with the date 1410, bears the name of JESUS; as did the famous bell in Lichfield Cathedral, which was knocked to pieces in the Civil Wars, in 1653, and which was inscribed,

"I am the bell of Jesus, and Edward is our King;  
Sir Thomas Heywood first caused me to ring."\*

The other bells in Thirsk Church are modern, bearing the names of church-wardens, and the dates 1729, 1775, and 1805. The former is also inscribed *Voco--Veni--Precare*.

"The ringing of the curfew bell, morning and evening, is still continued at Thirsk. This was first instituted in the city of Winchester, by William the Conqueror, to keep the subjugated English from meeting over their cups, and debating on their grievances. At the time of its evening sound all lights and fires were to be extinguished; nor might they be rekindled till it announced the morning." 'Hence its name *couvre feu*, or *cover fire*. This was done by raking the ashes of the wood-fires, which our ancestors used, over the

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\* Harwood's History of Lichfield.

glowing embers, as they lay upon the hearth.\* The *law* was rescinded by Henry I. the Conqueror's youngest son, though the *custom* is yet generally observed.

The steep and lofty roof of the nave, which is covered with lead in the ancient manner, together with the gothic pinnacles of the battlement, give the whole building a noble appearance, not unlike a cathedral. The interior of the "high embowed roof, With antique pillars massy proof," especially exhibits a curious specimen of ancient workmanship, which has been much admired. It is constructed of Irish Oak, which is said to possess the property of securing it from the spiders and their webs. The same circumstance is mentioned by Pennant in his account of the curious roof of Westminster-Hall.

Above the arch leading to the chancel, are curious antique paintings of the devices commonly attached to the twelve tribes of Israel: and many of the windows appear to have been formed of curiously painted glass, bearing coats of arms, and other devices with inscriptions. But they have been suffered to fall into decay, and the numerous repairs which they have undergone, have rendered

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\* Milner's Winchester' I, 189.

hem "worse for mending;" and now exhibit to the eye of the indignant antiquary, the venerable fragments only, of

"———storied windows richly dight  
Casting a dim religious light."

These windows having constituted a part of a more ancient church, from whose ashes or ruins the present structure has arisen, exhibit also memorials of a superstition, which, though the sentence of orthodoxy may condemn it, did in a singular degree foster in this country the fine, and till lately long lost, art of painting in glass. In the window of the vestry, on the North side of the North Aisle, are several figures in excellent preservation. The principal personage bears the honourable title of S. Leonardus; below him are seen two females, one designated Elizabeth - - -; the other exhibiting, in the hem of her robe, the well known exhortation, Orate p bono Statu. In the East Window of the same aisle is one figure of beautiful execution, wearing a ducal coronet, probably of the family of Mowbray, some members of which bore the title of Duke of Norfolk. The East Window of the South Aisle is decorated with numerous armorial bearings; one escutcheon is of frequent occurrence, Sable, a fess gules, between three asses passant, argent. No less than three escutcheons bear these arms, with a mullet for distinction; and one with a



crescent. A female figure in this window bears on her breast the royal arms of England quartered with France; the motto curiously spelt, in Old English characters, *Dieu et monn drot*. Beneath, two figures are labelled Anna\* and Cleopas. Many other figures have once been painted in this beautiful window, which the ignorance of menders, and the accidents to which so fragile a fabric is liable, have long ago reduced to a strange medley of broken panes. Below this window is observed a curious specimen of antique carving; a coat graven in relieve in oak, on each side of a pew door; being the scanty remnants which have escaped destruction, and which were much more considerable in the recollection of many persons now living in Thirsk. This South Aisle appears to have been a chantry, from a *piscina* which is found in the wall; and which was customarily placed not only at the high altar, but also in the aisles and chantry chapels, where there were side altars for private masses. The use of the *piscina* was, it is well known, that if a fly or other insect should fall into the chalice before consecration, it might be thrown, together with the wine,

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\* It appears that there was formerly a chantry of St. Ann, at Thirsk, to which, on the suppression of religious houses, was granted the priory of Carthusians near Richmond. Chantries also, were in their turn speedily abolished.

into this receptacle : but should this happen afterwards, it was ordered to be burnt *super piscina*.

The MONUMENTS, and sepulchral inscriptions contained in Thirsk Church, are extremely few. The most ancient and worthy of observation is a flat stone at the East end of the South Aisle, (which we have supposed to be a chantry), inlaid with brass, which once bore two inscriptions ; but it is ever to be regretted that the unceremonious feet of heedless passengers have nearly obliterated the whole. The only legible characters remaining are on a brass plate, near the top of the stone, in Old English characters :

Hic iacet Robtus - - - clerus nup Rector Ecclic. d.  
 - - - - - obüt xvi  
 kl. dmb. A. dm. m,cccc,xix. cui ppicietur Ds. Amen.

*On a brass plate lower down.*

Es testis - - - iacet hic lapis iste  
 Ecopus - - - - -  
 - - - tu qui - - - sis  
 pro me tum pces sit venie spes.

On an elegant marble tablet on the North side of the chancel, is the following inscription to the memory of a lady :---

Near this place are the remains  
Of the Honourable Amelia Frederica Wilhelmina  
Melesina Sparre ;

The only remaining child of Charles, Baron Sparre,  
By Elizabeth, Countess of Gyllenborg Sparre.  
He was Aid de Camp to Charles XII., King of  
Sweden,

And with him in all his wars ;  
A Major-general ; and twenty years Minister from  
Sweden

To the Court of Great Britain.

If e'er sharp sorrow from thine eye did flow,  
If e'er thy bosom felt another's woe,  
If e'er fair beauty's charms thine heart did prove,  
If e'er the offspring of thy virtuous love  
Bloom'd to thy wishes, to thy soul was dear,  
This plaintive stone does ask of thee a tear.  
For here alas too early snatch'd away,  
An honest faithful heart death made his prey.

Obiit vi. Oct. M,DCC,LXXVIII.

Over this monument is placed a funeral hatchment ;  
bearing Azure, a chevron ermine. Motto---*Mors  
janua vitæ.*

*On a flat stone over the vault :---*

The vault of the Hon. Miss Sparre.

Doom'd to receive all that my soul holds dear,  
Give her that rest her heart refus'd her here.

O screen her from the pain the tender know,  
 The train of sorrows that from passion flow.  
 And to her envied new-born state adjoin  
 That heavenly bliss fit for such hearts as thine.

The hatchment of the late Ralph Bell, Esq. Lord  
 of the Manor of Thirsk, bears---Sable, a chevron  
 between three church bells, argent. Motto---*Non  
 omnis moriar.*

Affixed to a pillar in the nave is a Latin Epitaph,  
 sculptured on white marble, to the memory of a  
 clergyman :---

M. S.  
 Josephi Midgley, A. M.  
 Hujus Ecclesiæ Pastoris;  
 Qui  
 Linguarum Peritiâ,  
 Lectione Sacrà,  
 Morum Integritate  
 Modestiâ Summâ,  
 Exornatus;  
 Gregem ad Pietatem, Unitatem,  
 Cæterasq. Virtutes,  
 Non minore Facundiâ, concitavit :  
 Donec, Fato, Eheu! celeri nimis sublatuS,  
 Nondum Quinquagenarius,  
 8 Kal. Jul. 1704.  
 Cum summo Sacrorum Luctu

Decessit.

Saram duxit, Johannis Pybûs Filiam,  
(Viri huic Municipio olim pernoti perq, grati)  
Patris dignissimi Filiam haud Degenerem,

Quæ

Pia, Fida, Benigna,

Deo, Marito, Pauperibus.

Fili unici, septem deinde Filiarum

Mater Charissima,

Hic juxta Maritum

Una cum tribus è Filiabus,

Jam Quinquagenaria

8 Kal. Aug. 1710,

Placidè recubuit.

The tablet is surmounted by an escutcheon,  
Barry of ten, or and sable, a chief erminois.

No other monument has been erected in this  
church, with the exception of the following, inscrib-  
ed on a beautiful marble, in the South Aisle:---

Sacred

To the memory of

Ann Pybus, Spinster,

A native of this parish,

Wherein she lived

Seventy-five years.

She died

The 13th of January, 1778, in the

H

83d year of her age,  
Sincerely lamented  
By all who knew her,  
Or  
Had heard of her.

When the best heart and purest manners joined  
To manly sense, which dignifies the mind;  
When humble worth, from youth to age approved,  
Alike by rich and poor, admired, beloved;  
When merit, such as greater heav'n ne'er gave,  
By heaven is sentenced to th' oblivious grave:  
We mourn the loss, and grieve that such depart,  
With eyes o'erflowing and with woeful heart.  
A loss like this, here calls your sorrow forth,  
Bestow your tears and emulate her worth.

This monument was erected by John Pybus, Esq.  
of Greenhill Grove, in the county of Hertford; to  
rescue from speedy oblivion the memory of a  
beloved Aunt, universally respected for the various  
good qualities which adorn the Woman and the  
Christian.

Three flat stones in the nave bear inscriptions to  
the memory of different persons; which do not  
require particular mention.

Here it may not be irrelevant to mention, that  
on the 18th of Feb. 1601, one John Pibush was  
executed at St. Thomas's Watering, for discharging

his functions as a Catholic Priest; under a sentence by Lord Chief Justice Popham.\* He was a native of Thirsk, and not improbably an ancestor of Ann Pybus, spinster. This was one of the triumphs of *Protestant Intolerance*. "How painful a subject of regret is it, that Protestants should have imitated the church of Rome, in one of its worst practices. Could some people reason, they would perceive that the same arguments which vindicate their own liberty, establish that of all mankind."

To return to Thirsk Church.---On the North side of the chancel near the altar, a flight of twelve steps leads downwards to a chapel, beneath the chancel, resembling the ancient crypts; now used for the purpose of a Grammar School. It is to be observed that this is not a free school; the master's salary arising only from his pupils. The patron is the Lay Rector, Matthew Butterwick, Esq.

Near the altar, in the South Wall of the chancel, are to be observed three stalls, under as many beautiful, subdivided, Gothic arches, supported by buttresses. Seats of this nature are to be met with in several churches, and have furnished matter of conjecture and controversy to the antiquaries. Their use appears to have been for the priest

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\* Challoner's *Memoirs of Missionary Priests*, I, 209.

deacon, and subdeacon, to sit on during some parts of the high or solemn mass:\* and their existence in Thirsk Church, together with the *piscina*, proves the antiquity of the chancel; while the absence of the stone bason and the Western door, seems to render probable the more modern erection of part of the nave.

On a brass plate in front of the sounding board of the PULPIT, which is esteemed a well executed specimen of inlaid work, is engraven,

‘ George Cooper fecit,  
July ye 7, 1736.’

At the West end of the nave is situated the FONT, of ancient octagonal form, the large oak cover of which is richly carved in the figure of a florid Gothic Pyramid, and suspended from the gallery above.

A list of benefactions contains the following articles :---“ Henry Davison by his will, dated 1629, gave 20s. per annum in lands called Olby. William Wrightson by his will, dated 1684, gave - - - two rood of land called Wetland. Richard Wrightson by his will, dated 1725, gave 2s. per annum to be given in white bread on Christmas-day, in half an acre of land called Kill-hill. The Reverend

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\* Gent. Mag. Aug. 1787.



Mr. Midgley by his will, dated 10 Nov. 1692, gave the sum of 15s. yearly, and charged the close called Bransby Croft with the payment thereof. Due to the poor 10s. yearly from the Methodist Meeting House in Old Thirsk, dated 25th August, 1764. Henry Croe by his last will, dated 22 September, 1657, gave four wands\* of land lying in the North lngs, paying 16s. yearly. Timothy Place, Esq. of London, but formerly of this town, left by his will, bearing date June 1, 1810, One Thousand Pounds, 3 per cent. Consolidated Fund, to the poor of this parish, for ever; a proportionate part of the interest and dividend of which to be laid out every week in the purchase of bread, and distributed among such poor people of Thirsk, not receiving alms from the said parish; with this express condition, viz. that such persons shall be regular in attendance on divine worship in this church.---The above named Timothy Place left also, by his last will, Two Hundred Pounds, 3 per cent. Consolidated Fund, towards building the Organ in this church."

It appears that these are only a *part* of the benefactions which have at different times been inscribed on the tables; different items having been expunged with the painting brush: as in the case

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\* Wand, a Yorkshire term for the synonymous measure, a pole.

of William Wrightson's legacy, 'gave - - - 2 rood of land;' where a vacancy is visible. For what purpose these expungements may have been performed, we do not presume to conjecture. We only state the matter of fact, which is well known in this borough.

The ORGAN is situated at the West end of the church, and was 'erected in the year 1813;

Rev. J. Holmes, Minister

Messrs. J. Hudson and Joseph Dresser,  
Church-wardens

Muir, Wood, and Co. Edinburgh,  
Makers.'

This instrument is *not* a finger organ; but as a barrel organ, must be acknowledged to be creditable to the builders. It contains six barrels, each playing ten standard tunes; among which, we need scarcely mention, Luther's inimitable Hundredth Psalm; and Handel's celebrated 104th. The stops are twelve, of which the Sesquialtra, Principal, and Double Diapason, for clearness of expression, and sweetness of tone, are not frequently exceeded. The fine full bass of the latter, especially, cannot but be remarked. It is further observable, that the Double Diapason is placed in front of the Organ, which not only supersedes the customary decoration of wooden pipes for gilding; but affords a freer play for the noble sound of that most excellent stop.

One most singular circumstance must not be omitted, which is the rare position of many of the graves in the Church-yard, attached to this beautiful edifice. An invariable custom has been transmitted from antiquity to the Church of England, of placing the head of the coffin towards the *West* and the feet pointing to the *East*, for this plain reason, that the face of the rising dead may be turned towards the rising of the Sun, from which quarter the second advent is expected; with how great justice, each one must determine for himself. But in this cemetery many graves are posited *North* and *South*, as well as *East* and *West*. The circumstance may have arisen from a scarcity of consecrated ground, which induced the Sexton to place the coffins as closely as possible. In the opinions of some, this accidental misplacing may be deemed of vast importance, since, but a few years ago, His Grace the Archbishop of Cashel declined consecrating a church erected in Ireland, for no other reason than its aberration from the cardinal points of the Compass! With due deference to the decision of the Archbishop, it has been said that that point of the Horizon, where the rising Sun is first discovered on the festival of its Patron Saint, is the canonical East for the disposition of any particular church, and may be regarded (pardon the solecism) as its meridian line! It is well known that many churches, and amongst them in this

county, the churches of Rivalx and Kirkstall Abbeys, as well as some churches in London, do not point due East and West, but even North and South.

The Parish Register of Thirsk begins in the year 1556, and contains the following insertion in the first page:---Sic incipit primus liber. Liber factus vigesimo Die Septēbris A<sup>o</sup> D<sup>o</sup>ini 1556, Anno Regnorū Philippi et Mariæ tertio et 4<sup>o</sup>. But in the same page it seems to be suggested that there have been some previous documents, which were so defaced that they could not be made out. In initio desunt quædā quæ obscurata legi non poterant.

The following are the names of the Ministers of Thirsk, so far as can be ascertained from the Register:---

About the beginning of the year	
1600,	Revd. Thomas Todd
1632,	T. Gilleys
	Matthew Hill*
1704,	Joseph Midgley died
1746,	Mr Williamson died

---

\* In 1662, Matthew Hill, M. A. Minister of Thirsk, was ejected from the church by the Act of Uniformity. Of this Act Mr Locke says, that "Bartholomew-Day was fatal to our church and religion, by throwjng out a very great number of WORTHY, LEARNED, PIOUS, and ORTHODOX DIVINES."

1746, Revd. A. Routh made Curate (resigned  
about the year 1762)

1762, D. Addison

1783, T. Barker

1798, J. Holmes, the present Minister.

The Rectory of Thirsk was granted by Henry VIII. to Robert, Archbishop of York, in an indenture bearing date the 6th day of February, in the 36th year of his reign; having been parcel of the possessions or revenues of the late priory of Newburgh: together with the churches of Brafferton and Thirkleby.

### NORBY,

(i. e. North-by, a village North of the town) is the name given to that part of the town situated upon

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Mr Hill was of Magdalen College, Cambridge, a man of considerable talents and learning, particularly in the Hebrew language, and a serious and lively preacher. After being deprived of his curacy at Thirsk, he went to London, where after a variety of changes and trials, he lost his little all by a fire, upon which he subscribed a letter thus; "Your brother, sine re; sine spe, tantum non sine se, M. H." He afterwards embarked for the West Indies, with little besides a few clothes, a Bible, a Concordance, and a small parcel of MSS. He fixed at Charles County in Maryland, in 1669, where at first a bright scene of usefulness and comfort began to open, but afterwards new trials exercised his faith and patience.

Nonconf. Mem. vol. 3.

the Edinburgh Road, on the banks of the river. It is a rural situation, and forms a pretty entrance to Thirsk from the North.

In the marsh, near the church, flows a spring of pure and excellent water, commonly called *LADY-WELL*; doubtless a name of no modern ascription.

### *LADY-WELL.*

*' Fies nobilium tu quoque fontium.'*

Inspir'd by Greece's hallow'd spring,  
Blandusia's fount let Horace sing;  
Whilst favour'd by no muse, I tell  
How much I love sweet *LADY WELL*.

Amidst the willow shades, obscure,  
From age to age her stream runs pure:  
Yet has no seer aris'n to tell  
The bliss that flows from *LADY WELL*.

Save that, in those dark distant days,  
When superstition dimm'd truth's rays,  
The monk promulged from his cell,  
That virtue dwelt in *LADY WELL*.

The ancient heathens are known to have paid adoration to wells and fountains; the Roman Catholic Church also adopted this practice, and

hence many wells are still termed HOLY WELLS ; or retain the name of some saint, to whom they were dedicated. No doubt this well was dedicated to "*our Lady*," the Virgin Mary.

### THE NUNNERY.

About two miles to the North of Thirsk, was situated a Convent, commonly called Harden Nunnery ; surrounded by the woods of Dowlands, and encompassed with a deep moat. Little is known of its history, but we may safely reckon it among the objects of Henry VIII's plunder.

Let us however, not grieve at the abolition of such institutions ; which at the best, could lay claim to no more than *negative* efficacy. They might chain up the struggling passions, and hold them in bondage ; they might effect a specious external alteration ; but they could never change the heart :\*

" But, hark ! the cloister doors unbar !  
The imprison'd victims hurry forth.  
Lo ! pale-eyed beauty, letter'd worth,  
To heav'n their raptures lift in grateful strife,  
And drink anew the gales of liberty and life."

---

\* Dr Johnson said to the Abbess of a convent which he visited in France, " Madam, you are here, not for the LOVE of VIRTUE, but for the FEAR of VICE."

The end, however, does in no wise justify the means. The blessings which have attended the Reformation in this country, cannot be allowed to justify that irreligious rapacity, which confiscated the revenues of six hundred and forty-five monastic institutions; ninety colleges; two thousand three hundred and seventy-four chantries and free chapels; and one hundred and ten hospitals; amounting to the enormous sum of £161,000 annually. The *ostensible* reason for Henry's zeal was, the irregularities and corruptions of the monasteries and convents; his secret motives let posterity judge---

“Dicite, pontifices, in sacris quid facit AURUM.”

The site of the convent is now occupied by a coppice, and overrun with underwood. The moat is yet distinguishable, but is nearly overgrown with briars and thorns, the seat of silence and desolation.

“The thistle shakes there its lonely head: the moss whistles to the wind. The fox looks out; the rank grass of the wall waves round his head. Desolate is the dwelling of beauty: silence is in the house of Moina.”



## ANCIENT ENCAMPMENT.

In a meadow, near the bridge in Millgate, (the property of Miss Story) bearing E. N. E. of the church, is *found* an ancient encampment, commonly ascribed to the invading Danes. Its *foss* and *vallum*, together with an *agger* or *tumulus* at one of the angles, are well defined, but of very small dimensions; (not more than 130 feet square.) It is, however, an object of curiosity to the lover of antiquity, as having probably been the scene of some attack on Thirsk Castle, or the vestiges of still earlier hostilities.

The Roman Antiquities of the place are few indeed. The Roman Military Road from *Derventio*, or Aldby on the Derwent, to *Cataractonium*, passed through the town to Northallerton, giving name to the village of Thornton-le-Street.

## NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

At a little distance out of the town, on the great North Road, rises a MINERAL WATER or SPA, conveniently provided with accommodations for bathing, as well as for drinking the water. It is

collected within two bathing houses, behind the Spa Inn, and "is a brisk, sparkling, chalybeate water. It is also purgative and diuretic, resembling the Scarborough and Cheltenham waters."\*

During the summer months the Spa is considerably resorted to by the inhabitants of Thirsk and the vicinity; it was analysed by Dr. Pearson of London, and found to possess virtues of a medical nature, which are by no means contemptible.

In the spacious Gravel-pit behind the church, from which materials for the public roads are procured, different impressions of ORGANIC REMAINS are frequently met with, such as *cornua ammonis*, *gryphites*, *mussels* of different species, &c.† Our old poet, Drayton, in his Poly-Olbion, mentions the serpent-stones among "the wonders of the North-Riding,"---

"And stones like serpents there, yet may yee more behold  
That in their natural gyres are up together rol'd;  
Stones of a spherick forme of sundry mickles fram'd,  
That well they globes of stone or bullets might be nam'd;

---

\* Dr John Elliot's Mineral Waters, p. 271.

† Some beautiful specimens of these organic remains are in the possession of the Rev. J. Jefferson, of Thirsk; who has also a collection of other fossils, shells; British, Roman and other antiquities; Roman, Saxon, Chinese, Indian, and other Coins, ancient and modern.

For any ordinance fit; which broke with hammer's blows,  
Doe headless snakes of stone, within their rotunds en-  
close."

The existence of these marine relics, found at  
such a distance from the sea, a circumstance noticed  
by Ovid,

*Et procul a pelago conchæ jacuere marinæ,*

and sometimes 100 fathoms below its level,  
at other times on the tops of mountains, has  
baffled the investigation of philosophers. They  
seem to exhibit the evidence of some great con-  
vulsion of nature. Some consider them as a proof  
of the Universal Deluge, "These petrified bodies,"  
says the Abbe Pluchè, "so seemingly useless, do  
speak demonstration to our senses, and are a lan-  
guage which is understood by the most common  
capacities, having been appointed by Providence,  
as so many standing monuments of the most re-  
markable of all transactions, and are, with regard  
to the History of Moses respecting the Deluge, the  
same as medals to the Roman History." The proper  
study of nature

Finds tongues in trees; books in the running brooks;  
Sermons in stones; and good in every thing.

If we should mention the large detached mass  
of *Granite*, formerly lying in the bed of the river,

near the church, but now removed to the head of the Ripon Road, as a curiosity, perhaps some of our readers might be inclined to smile. Such masses are not unfrequently met with, rounded and worn away as by the action of currents. As there are no rocks of granite within a hundred miles of this part of the kingdom, how are we to account for such distribution of such masses of primitive rock? Geologists refer us to the awful era, when "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up," and the primitive rocks were torn from their bases, and in many instances broken into fragments, and tossed about in the shoreless ocean.

We are informed by naturalists that the *Nightingale* does not visit our Northern counties, and one writer affirms that it does not, in general, extend its flight more than about 150 miles in different directions from Dover, over the various parts of England.\* It is asserted, however, that the notes of this bird, "most musical, most melancholy," may be heard in the season in Birkham-wood, near Knaresbrough.† In the remarkably fine and warm summer of 1818, it was noticed in the public newspapers, as a very unusual circumstance, that the nightingale was heard in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, and even near Paisley, in

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\* Monthly Mag. July, 1818.

† History of Knaresbrough, p. 99.

Scotland. Many persons in the neighbourhood of Thirsk were also gratified with the nocturnal serenade of this *rara avis* in Cotcliffe-wood, near Horrowby.

All night

Perch'd on the bough, she plaintive sings, and fills  
The wide-extended woods with melancholy strains.

If, as it is said, glow-worms constitute the food of nightingales, it is certain the vale of Mowbray supplies abundance of these little luminous creatures to invite the visits of this sweet songstress.

Among the crooked lanes, on ev'ry hedge,  
The glow-worm lights her gem, and, thro' the dark,  
A moving radiance twinkles.

Among the natural curiosities of Thirsk, may be mentioned the flocks of living *Geese*, traversing, and sometimes flying, in the market-place and streets. To a native of the town, this may not appear remarkable; but to a traveller from the Southern part of the kingdom, who has been accustomed to consider cackling geese as among "rural sights and rural sounds," it appears somewhat singular. To be sure, these animals may plead the precedent of some of their species having saved ancient Rome, when by their cackling they awoke Manlius so opportunely, to drive away the invading Gauls. We suppose the inclosure of the com-

mons\* may occasion these creatures to find food as they can in our streets, and we indulge them in the liberty, as the inhabitants, we suppose, find them useful birds enough---at Michaelmas and Christmas!

Besides the Established Church, there are in the town, **DISSENTING CHAPELS** belonging to the Independents, Methodists, and Quakers. The Friends' Meeting House, with a burial ground attached, is situated in Kirkgate, and is a spacious building of modern erection. The Methodist Chapel, a large and elegant edifice, situated in St. James's Green, was built on an old site, in the year 1816. The Independent Place of Worship stands in the lane nearest the Sowerby Flats, on the road to Boroughbridge. It was erected in the year 1803. The nearest Catholic Chapel is at North Kilvington, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile distant. The Society of Friends have another burial place in that part of Old Thirsk called Barbeck.

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\* The following little jeu d'esprit was written on the inclosure of the commons:---

The fault is great in man or woman,  
Who steals a goose from off a common;  
But who can plead that man's excuse,  
Who steals the common from the goose?

## SCHOOL FOR THE SONS OF THE CLERGY.

There was formerly an academy of some note in Thirsk, at which were seldom less than 150 young gentlemen from different parts of the kingdom, under the tuition of the late Rev. D. Addison. The Society for the Education of Clergymen's Orphan Children, were accustomed to place all their boys at this school, which has for some years been given up. In the school-house, a charity school is at present established, for the education of girls.

There are two BENEFIT CLUBS for Men, and one for Women, in Thirsk. These are excellent institutions when they are properly conducted, as providing against a time of sickness, and for a decent funeral.\*

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\* It is to be lamented, that any of the Societies should be held at Public Houses, as it is a matter of fact, that many persons from being called periodically to a Public House, to look after the affairs of their Clubs, have thereby contracted an habit of drinking. It has been computed that near one million of His Majesty's Subjects belong to such Societies, and that, to the circumstance of their being held at Public Houses, may be traced much of the crime and misery that prevail in the kingdom. The evidence of the

The present Members in Parliament for the borough of Thirsk, are Robert Frankland, Esq. and Robert Greenhill Russell, Esq.

Business is transacted for Messrs. Backhouse & Co. Bankers Darlington, by Mr Storey, in the market-place; for Messrs. Britain & Co. of Ripon, by Mr Hansell, in Millgate; and for Messrs. Raper, Swann, & Co. York, by Mr Arniitt, in the market-place.

The principal Inns are the Three Tuns, Embsay and The Golden Fleece, Blythe; posting houses.

Markets are on Monday: Fairs, Shrove-Monday and April 4 and 5; for horses, horned cattle, sheep, leather, &c., Easter-Monday and Whit-Monday; for woollen cloth, toys, &c., Aug. 4 and 5, Oct. 28 and 29, for sheep, horned cattle, and leather; and first Tuesday after December 11, for horned cattle, leather, &c. The leather fairs of this town are among the largest in England.

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Rev. J. W. Cunningham, Vicar of Harrow, before a Committee of the House of Commons some time ago, abundantly proved the truth of these remarks. That Gentleman has established a Society at a Private House in his Parish, and has witnessed its good effect on the industry and morals of its members. See on Benefit Clubs, &c. Philanthropic Gazette, Dec. 18, 1820.



The population of the town, according to the census in 1811, is as follows :--

528 inhabited houses

541 families

120 farmers, &c.

282 traders

139 not included in the two former classes

1002 males

1156 females

Total 2158

It is thought the number has greatly increased since that time.

In the winter of 1819-20, the town of Thirsk was furnished with lamps, by subscription, which have proved a great convenience to the inhabitants.

As the facetious *Barnaby*, in his "Four Journeys to the North of England," has honoured the town of Thirsk with his notice, the reader will not be displeased to have his rhymes recorded in this History, particularly as they supply us with a *learned* etymology of the name of the town, hitherto a *desideratum* in our work, and inform us that the place was two centuries ago famous for *flowers*, *pottage*, and *bullocks*!

"Thence to \*THYRSKE, rich THYRSIS' easket  
 Where fair PHYLLIS fills her basket  
 With choice flowers, but these be vain things,  
 I esteem no flowers, nor swainlings;  
 In Bacchus Yard, field, booth, or cottage,  
 I love nought like his cold pottage."

And again, enumerating the "Northern Fairs,"

"Thence to THYRSK, where bullocks grazed,  
 Are for sale ith' market placed."

The town of Thirsk was formerly noted for the tanning business, and the manufacture of saddlery goods, particularly bridles, a considerable quantity of which were engaged for the army. These trades have declined of late years, particularly since the peace.

The situation of Thirsk is remarkable for its salubrious air, and the fertility of its soil. The beauty of the surrounding country, comprising all the extent of the vale of Mowbray, can scarcely be surpassed. And the traveller, who is in search of the picturesque, will feel disposed to exclaim, on beholding so enchanting a prospect,---

'Had Pope this Valley ever seen,  
 His Windsor Forest ne'er had been.'

---

\* "Here THYRSIS fed his lambkins on the plain:  
 So THYRSKE from THYRSIS took her ancient name.  
 Here TITYRUS and PHYLLIS made them bowers,  
 Of tender Osiers, sweet-breath'd Sycamours!"

*Villages, &c.*

THE Villages in the Neighbourhood, which are the most worthy of mention, are the following :

## SOWERBY,

(*Sour*, boggy land, and *bi*, village,) about a quarter of a mile South of Thirsk, is a large and respectable village, which, for beauty and fertility, is not often exceeded.

Camden speaks of '*Soureby* and *Brakenbak*, belonging to the truly ancient and honourable family of *Lascelles*.' By an indenture of assignment, bearing date the first day of October, in the 42nd year of the reign of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the leasehold premises in the township of Sowerby, were assigned by Sir Thomas Lascelles, Knt. and William Lascelles, his son and heir apparent, (to the family of Meynell, now of Yarm,) for the term of 2000 years, subject to a small annual rent, or acknowledgement, paid in money and hens

at the feast of Saint Michael the Bishop, in winter. The respective owners now pay 6d. in lieu of each hen.

One of the members of this family of Lascelles was executed at York, about the year 1642, for the crime of popery. He was the eldest son of Christopher Lockwood, Esq. of Sowerby, by N. Lascelles, his wife. He was apprehended at Wood-end, at the house of one Mrs. Catenby, a widow, by some pursuivants from Thirsk, whose leader was Cuthbert Langdale, a man whose name is handed to posterity with deserved infamy. Many circumstances of cruelty are related of his apprehension and conveyance to York Castle, where he was condemned and executed April 13, 1642.\* The Sheriff who attended the execution, was Sir Richard Hutton, of Goldsbrough, Knt.

Sowerby is a part of Thirsk Parish, the living is in the gift of his Grace the Archbishop of York; the church is of venerable and ancient appearance, but apparently built since the Reformation. The porch conceals from publicity a curious door-way, of carved work, which, from the shape of the arch, and the grotesque capitals of the pillars, appears to have been executed in a very distant age, probably Saxon, but certainly not more modern than that of the Normans.

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\* Challoner's Missionary Priests, 2, 106.

## SAND-HUTTON,

is a pleasant village, about three miles W. of Thirsk, having a Chapel under Thirsk; from which Mr. Dunkinson was ejected by the Act of Uniformity in 1662. About half-way between Thirsk and Sand-Hutton, across the fields, stands an ancient rude Stone Pillar, placed in a massy pedestal, called *Sand-Hutton Cross*. It is not known for what purpose it was erected. Perhaps it may have been intended for a boundary stone, as the division of the parishes is near it. In ancient times, the boundaries of lands were marked out by crosses, as among the ancient Romans they were by the figure of their god *Terminus*. A similar cross is seen at Borrowby, the boundary of Allertonshire and Birdforth Wapentakes; and at Craven-Cross, in the West-Riding, one of the boundaries of Knaresbrough Forest.

Five miles South of Thirsk, stands

## TOPCLIFFE.

"*Topcliffe* from *top of cliffs* first took her name,  
And her cliff-mounted seat confirms the same;

L

Where streams, with curled windings overflow,  
Bestow a native beauty on the town."

A romantic little town on the road to Borough-bridge, which Leland designates "an uplandish town: whose pretty manor-place stands on a hill, about half a mile from the town, almost on the ripe of the Swale." Marianus calls it, TADENCLIFFE, and says that, in the year 949, the States of Northumberland took, at this place, the oath of allegiance to Eadred, the West Saxon King of England. But Ingulphus, who is in this case a preferable witness, says that the business was dispatched by Chancellor Turketule, at York.\*

William the Conqueror granted this manor, with many others, to William de Percy: it was three miles in length, and of an equal breadth, and contained 26 carucates† of land, which were taxable; 35 villans; and 14 borderers; with a wood, half a mile square. This manor, containing nine square miles at the least, was chargeable with a yearly rent of five pounds.

In the fourth year of Henry VII., a subsidy was granted by Parliament, for carrying on the war in

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\* Camden, by Gibson, p. 768.

† This ancient measure appears to have been of various dimensions: it may perhaps be stated at from 90 to 120 acres. Vide Young's Whitby, I, 270.

Bretagne; which was so oppressive, that the country was roused to indignation against the exactors of so odious a tax. Polydore Virgil says it was a poll-tax---*Tributo in singula capita imposito*---But according to Stow, every man was taxed to pay the tenth part of all lands and goods. It was, at all events, as large a subsidy as had ever been granted to any former King upon any occasion.\* All the counties, except Yorkshire and the bishopric of Durham, readily paid the tax; but in these parts where the Yorkists were very numerous, it was not so easily collected. Henry Percy, the fourth Earl of Northumberland, then Lord Lieutenant for Yorkshire, informed the King of the ferment which had been excited, and begged the King's direction as to his future proceedings. The King answered, that not one penny should be remitted, lest other counties should be encouraged to desire the like mitigation. Upon this answer, the Earl assembled the principal men of the county, and declared to them the royal pleasure. The annunciation of this harsh sentence inflamed the populace, who rose and assaulted the house of the Earl, at Topcliffe, forced it open, and murdered him with many of his servants, A. D. 1489. The following lines were written on the occasion, by Skelton, poet laureate to Henry VIII. :---

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\* Rapin, I, 662.

"Trustinge in noblemen that wer with hym there :  
 Bot all they fled from hym for falshode or fere,  
 He was envyronde aboute on every syde,  
 Withe his enemys that were stark mad and wode : .  
 Yet whils he stode he gave them woundes wyde,  
 Alas, for routhe ! what thouche his mynde were goode,  
 His courage manly ; yet ther he shed his bloode,  
 All left alone, alas ! he fawte in vayne ;  
 For cruelly amonge them ther he was slayne."

This Earl was one of King Richard's commanders  
 in the fatal battle of Bosworth-field. On the  
 morning of the engagement, the Duke of Norfolk  
 found these verses written on the tent-door of Earl  
 Percy :---

"Jack of Norfolk, be not too hold,  
 For Dickon thy master is bought and sold."

The King was slain, and his general, Northumber-  
 land, was received into the conqueror's favour !  
 ' Put not your trust in Princes.'

This Nobleman married the daughter of the Earl  
 of Pembroke, who, with her Lord, has a monument  
 in Beverley Minster.\*

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\* The following extract from the Northumberland  
 Household Book, may serve as a specimen of the style  
 of a Nobleman's family, at his castles in Yorkshire, in  
 the year 1512 ;---



Thomas Percy, the succeeding Earl, took up arms against Queen Elizabeth, and narrowly escaped being taken at his house here; but was afterwards decapitated at York, 1572.

King James 1, in coming to take possession of the Crown of England, stopped with his retinue a night at Topcliffe.

In the year 1646, the Scotch Army was quartered in this vicinity; and the commissioners from the Parliament agreed with the Scots, that upon payment of £400,000,\* the army should retire into Scotland, and the King should be delivered up into the hands of his enemies. Upon the arrival of half this sum

Braikfastis of flesch-days dayly,

Braikfastis for my Lorde and my Lady;

Furst, a loof of brede, in trenchors, ij manchetts. j quart of bere, a quart of wyne, half a chyne of mutton, or ella a chyne of beef boiled---j

Braikfastis for the Nurcy,

For my Lady Margaret and Mr Yngram Percy;

Item, a manchett, j quarte of bere, and iij muton bonyes boiled.

Swannys, Hearonsewys, See Gulls, and Pacokes are among the provisions ordered for table by this Nobleman.

It is the remark of Hume, the historian, that nothing can be more erroneous, than the magnificent ideas of the moderns about the "Roast Beef of Old England," as if it were the noble fare of antiquity; nothing like it appears in the cookery of the Northumberland Household Book, where such a variety of provisions are specified.

\* Rapin, 11, 525.

at Topcliffe, the conditions of the treaty were to be performed. On the 11th of May, 1646, the King passed through the town, with the Scotch Army, in their route from Newark to Newcastle. His Majesty dined here, and bade adieu to one of his most faithful servants, Sir Henry Slingsby; and on the 30th of January following, was delivered to the Parliament's Commissioners. It has been observed, that 'this seems to have been the only market in England for the sale of Kings.'\*

The mansion of the very ancient and noble family of Percy, stood at the distance of half a mile from Topcliffe; the vestiges which remain are now known by the name of MAIDEN BOWER.

### THE CHURCH.

The Swale, which passes Topcliffe and joins the Ure at Myton, was held sacred by the Saxons, and termed the *Jordan* of England, on account of the wonderful baptism in that river, of ten thousand men in one day. This great feat was performed at Helperby by Paulinus, the Roman Missionary, in the year 627. The same exploit is related of St. Austin; and both the rivers are called Swale, though the one runs into the Thames, the other

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\* Hutton's Trip to Coatham, p. 195.

into the Ure. It may seem incredible that so many should be taught and baptized by Paulinus in one day; but the difficulty respecting Austin is solved by an ancient fragment, quoted by Camden.\* "The Archbishop, after he had consecrated the river *Swale*, commanded, by the cryers and principal men, that they should with faith go in two by two, and in the Name of the Holy Trinity, *baptize each other*. Thus were they all regenerate, by as great a miracle, as once the people of Israel passed over the divided Sea, and Jordan, when 'twas turned back. A strange miracle this was: but what is yet a greater, the river cures all diseases and infirmities. Whoever steps in faint and disordered, comes out sound and whole." Thus, says the fragment, "upon one single Christmas-day, (to the eternal honour of the English Nation), Austin baptized above ten thousand men, besides an infinite number of women and children."†

This we may suppose to have been the introduction of Christianity to Topcliffe. The present Church bears evident marks of antiquity, and is a vicarage, dedicated to St. Columbus. It was granted by William de Percy, in 1226, to the cathedral of York, and is at present under the patronage of the Dean and Chapter.

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\* Rapin, I, 70, note (10.) Gibson's Camden, Introduction, cxxxi.

† Mr Hutton, (Trip to Coatham) calls this a proof of the prior antiquity of ADULT baptism!

King Edward VI, by his letters patent, in the second year of his reign, granted to an assistant Curate to the church of Topcliffe, and his successors for ever, the sum of £5 per annum; which was confirmed by Queen Elizabeth, 1559.

On a flat stone in the North Aisle, the following inscription, in rude characters, merits the notice of the visitor.

Mr. Francis  
Norton was  
Buried May  
30, 1649.

Another stone of greater antiquity, and of more polished workmanship, may be a still greater object of curiosity. It is inlaid with brass, and contains the full length figures of Thomas de Topcliffe and his Lady; their hands clasped; the feet of the man resting on a lion; those of the lady are covered with her long robes, whose hem is fantastically decorated with the effigy of a monkey. A superb canopy of florid gothic, is engraven over their heads, and round the whole runs the following epitaph, in Old English characters :---

\* hic . iacet . venerabilis . . . Topclyff  
. . qui . obyt . an . . . . m . ccc . lxx . quorū .  
umē . . . . . quondam . uxor . eius  
. . que . obyt . anno . domini . m . ccc . xxi .

quod amē : propicietur . deus . + The arms occur twice in the course of the inscription, but do not admit of blazoning, from their present imperfection. Part of the epitaph is also defaced, but enough remains to shew the antiquity and value of the tomb, which is trampled under foot by every passenger, and bids fair to be totally despoiled in the course of a few years.

The family of Topcliffe was connected with that of Percy; and was anciently distinguished in the annals of the Yorkshire Church. John Topcliffe was Rector of St. Mary's, Castlegate, York, 1302. Another John Topcliffe was Rector of Allsaints' Church, in that city, 1466: and a third John Topcliffe, alias Hexham, a native of Topcliffe, was Canon of the priory of Hexham, and Abbot of Whitby Abbey. Amidst the troubles preceding the dissolution of the monastery, he resigned his office in 1538.\*

Above this ancient tablet, a large and elegant monument has been erected to Sir Metcalfe Robinson, Bart. who died the 6th of February, 1688, æt. 59. A marble bust of the deceased is supported by warlike instruments, as cannon, standards, &c. Above is suspended his helmet in martial pomp;

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\* Young's History of Whitby, I, 265.

his shield, bearing his armorial distinctions, fell down a few years since, and was barbarously destroyed. The sword and gauntlets, on one side, and spurs, on the other, have as yet with the helmet, escaped destruction. The arms are vert, on a chevron between three stags at gaze; or, an inescutcheon argent, bearing a sinister hand coupé, gules.

Close by the above lies interred the body of Sir William Robinson,\* who was High Sheriff for the county in 1689, and Lord Mayor of York in 1700. He was many years M. P. for Northallerton, and returned in eight successive Parliaments for the city of York. Died 22 December, 1736, æt. 82. Arms--Robinson, impaled with gules, three lozenges in fess, argent, between three lions' heads erased, or.

On the South side of the chancel, are deposited the remains of Sir William Robinson, Bart. eldest

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\* The following curious Letter, from the Spectator, No. 328, may amuse some of our readers. It was faithfully taken from the original, written by a Yorkshire Gentleman of a good estate, addressed to Sir William Robiuson; the form and spelling are exactly copied :---

"For Sir William to go to london at westmister remember a parlement.

Sir

"William, i hope that you are well. i write to let you know that i am in troubel about a lady you

son of Sir James Robinson, Bart. of Newby; who departed this life 4 March, 1770. Arms---Impaled; Dexter, quarterly, first and fourth, Robinson, second and third, azure, a manche, ermine; inescutcheon, argent, bearing a sinister hand coupé,

---

"nease; and I do desire that you will be my frend;  
 "for when i did com to see her at your hall, i was  
 "mighty Abuesed. i would fain a see you at topeciff,  
 "and they would not let me go to you; but i desire  
 "that you will be our frends, for it is no dishonor  
 "neither for you nor she, for God did make us all. i  
 "wish that i might see you, for they say that you are a  
 "good man; and many doth wonder at it, but madam  
 "norton is abuesed and ceated two i beleive. i might a  
 "had many a lady, but i con have none but her with a  
 "good consons, for there is a God that know our harts.  
 "if you and madam norton will come to York, there i  
 "shall meet you if God be willing and if you pleased.  
 "so be not angterie till you know the trates of tnings.

I give my to me lady, and to Mr.

GEORGE NILLSON. Aysenby, and to madam norton.  
 March the 19th, 1703."

The above is accompanied by two other letters of a similar kind, written by the same Gentleman, addressed to Madam Mary herself, of which we shall only give the superscriptions :---

"This is for madam mary norton dishforth Lady she went to York."

"This is for madam mary norton to go to london for a lady that belongs to dishforth."

The original paper of the Spectator, which contains these letters, was written by Steele, but withdrawn in later editions, and another written by Addison, substituted for it. We were favoured with the loan of the original folio edition by a Gentleman of Thirsk.

gules: Sinister, argent, five bars, gules; a chief of the first. A hatchment bearing these arms has the motto, *Amore nimos*.

Other monuments and sepulchral tablets are met with in Topcliffe Church, too numerous for specification.

The East Window presents a noble appearance, being large and lofty; but has been stripped of its painted glass. Much do we regret the misguided zeal which prevailed during the commotions, and civil war of the 17th century, and which is justly chargeable with the destruction of the ancient 'religious lights,' which were the ornament and pride of each venerable church. Nor do we perceive the necessity of breaking these 'storied windows,' by the ejection of the Prayer Book, since, as a writer remarks, the same hole might have served, through which the Mass Book had formerly been hurled. But very scanty remnants are now seen in Topcliffe; in the North Aisle one pane, defended by the large mullions of the window, has escaped, and exhibits the Percy Arms.

The Chancel contains the three stalls so frequently met with in old churches, and the piscina, clear proofs, if all others were wanting, of an antiquity prior to the Reformation.



A degree of peculiarity attaches to this building, from the circumstance of its having a North Aisle, coeval with the rest of the church, but never having had any South Aisle. North Aisles of this description are frequently met with in the Cornish\* Churches, but are seldom found elsewhere. They are conceived to have been chantry chapels, founded by persons of substance residing in the parish, who endowed them with houses and lands, for the maintenance of one or more priests to sing masses at the altar of some favourite saint, for the soul of the founder. They were also burial places for the founders of the families; which after the Reformation, were appropriated to public use, and furnished with pews as the rest of the church.† In the present instance, the Percy Family may have founded this Chantry or North Transept, their arms appearing to this day in one of the windows. Or, Thomas de Topcliffe, who is buried in this aisle, and was connected with the Percys, might have been the cause of its consecration.

One circumstance is greatly to be lamented---the North Walls of the whole building, but particularly towards their Eastern extremity, exhibit symptoms of approaching dissolution, having diverged from

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\* Gent. Mag. July 1781.

† Gent. Mag. April 1782.

the perpendicular in so alarming a degree, as to have occasioned the erection of two enormous buttresses in the church yard, and the aid of two substantial props in the church itself. We should much regret the fall of this edifice ; yet the appearance is at present not a little alarming. The internal length is 115 feet, and breadth 51.

In 1662, in the reign of Charles II., Mr James Calvert was ejected from the church of Topcliffe, by the Act of Uniformity. He was a graduate of Clare Hall, Cambridge. About 1675, he became Chaplain to Sir William Strickland, of Boynton, and afterwards to Sir W. Middleton, Northumberland. He was a man of great learning and piety, and died in 1698. He was the author of a work entitled, "*Napthali ; seu Colluctatio Theologica de Reditu 10 Tribuum, Conversione Judæorum, & Mensura Ezekielis.*" Lond. 4to, 1672.\*

Among the Gentlemen of the county of York, who compounded for their estates, during the Civil War in the reign of Charles I., was William Armistage, of Topcliffe---the sum £800.†

A Free School was founded in 1549, for the town of Topcliffe: the present Master, Mr Bovill, is paid by the seoffees.

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\* Palmer's Nonconformist's Memorial.

† Yorkshire Gazetteer.

Topcliffe still retains its Cross, though it has long discontinued its markets. Large fairs are held on July 17 and 18, for sheep, horned cattle, and horses, which are larger than could possibly be expected from the present reduced magnitude of the town.

### SESSAY,

The seat of the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Dawney, is a pleasant village in Allertonshire, formerly the property of the Darells, but now of Viscount Downe, five miles from Thirsk.

The Parish Church appears to have been *once* an ancient building; but the *improvements*, which have of late years taken place, have almost obliterated the vestiges of antiquity.

The Porch, which is in a modern stile of architecture, was added in the year 1713; at which time, probably, the brick tower and the Ionic column on each side the altar were also erected.

In spite of the sash windows, some remnants of antique painted glass are yet among the chief treasures---one pane bears the common initials, but

in an uncommon form--IHC, which is considered\* an abbreviation of the old Greek IHCOYC, rather than of the Latin, *Jesus Hominum Salvator*. Another fragment is ornamented with a crest or device, which is met with on an ancient monument in the chancel; an *agnus Dei*, bearing the motto, *As God will*.

A large flat stone in the floor bears a brass figure and inscription. A full length ecclesiastic in pontificalibus, with hands clasped, wears on his breast in Roman Capitals, IESVS; a label from his hands is inscribed, *Jesu fili dei miserere mei*. Beneath all, in the ancient English character, 'Here lyethe master Thomas magnus,† Archideacon of

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\* Gent. Mag. 1796, p. 641.

† There is a common tradition, which we give as such, that Thomas Magnus, Archdeacon, &c. was found an infant in a basket on the morning of St. Thomas's Day, and brought up jointly amongst the inhabitants. As he was found on St. Thomas's Day, he was called 'Thomas,' and as he was kept by the inhabitants, was called 'Thomas among us,' (among us). Being a steady youth, he was noticed by the respectable family who then owned the village, and was engaged as a servant to one of the young Gentlemen; which afforded him an opportunity of obtaining some learning. He improved his abilities to the best advantage, and rose to high preferment in the Church. He dignified his former name 'Thomas among us,' by the more respectable one of Thomas Magnus, that is, 'Thomas the Great,' and is said to have been a pious man. There is a St. Magnus in the Roman Calendar.

theſt Rydyng in the metropolitan chyrche of Yorke, and pton of this chyrche, whiche dyed the xxviii day of Auguſt. A<sup>o</sup>. Dni. M<sup>o</sup>. ccccc<sup>o</sup>. l. whoſe ſoule God pdon.' Armorial bearings---Bendy of five, argent and ſanguine. on a feſs of the firſt, a lion paſſant gardant, between two cinquefoils, proper. On the chief of the ſhield, is placed the motto, *As God will*. The corners of the large ſtone are decorated with two inlaid brazen columbines and agnus dei's.

On the North ſide of the chancel, a neat marble monument is erected to the memory of the Rev. Richard Kitchingman, M. A. late Fellow of Sidney Coll. Cambridge, and Rector of Seſſay : who died Jan. 18th, 1777, aged 58 ; and Dorothy his wife, who died March 29, 1808, æt. 89. At the E. end, another monument commemorates Sarah, wife of Rev. H. Kitchingman, Prebendary of York, young-eſt daughter of the Rev. W. Knowler, L. L. D. At the E. end of what may be termed the S aiſle, a large elevated tomb has been ſtripped of its brazen ornaments and inſcriptions, and retains no intelligible marks, ſave in rude characters, I D ſculptured on the edge of the flat ſtone which covers the tomb,

## BIRDFORTH,

a small village five miles S. E. of Thirst, on the York Road, is remarkable as giving name to the Wapentake, though it is at present an obscure hamlet. The Church does not appear very ancient, and contains not one article worthy of notice, saving a stone in the North Wall of the Chancel, inscribed in elegant old characters, 1525 §

I

T

A

G

Between these letters, in the centre, an escutcheon bears a bend charged with three roses, and a mullet for distinction; impaled with three lions rampant on a fess dancette. The indiscriminating daub which has white-washed the stone, renders it impossible to discern the colours of the several bearings.

A few years since, a considerable quantity of small silver coins was found in widening Birdforth-beck. The treasure has been dispersed, and not a piece now remains in Birdforth. The place where they were found being near the Roman Road, renders it not improbable that they might be Roman Coins.

Under the head of Birdforth, it may not be improper to mention the origin of the name Wapentake, at this place. In Saxon times was held the *gemote*, or assembly of the people of this Wapentake, for the transacting of all public concerns, relative to the district; and where, by the laws of King Edgar, every freeman in such district, was obliged to attend. The custom of the people meeting to receive the Governor of the Wapentake, is distinctly mentioned in the laws of Edward the Confessor. The person appointed repaired to the usual place of meeting, for that purpose, and was there met by the principal persons in that district; after he had quitted his horse, and placed himself on some elevation, he held up his spear; each person then approached him, and touched his spear with theirs; which ceremony of touching of armour, was looked upon to confirm that community in one common interest; and hence the term *weapontouch*, or *weapontack*. The Hundred, or Wapentake Courts, were, by statute of the 14th Edward III., 1340, discontinued, and the business removed to County Courts.

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## COXWOLD

is a small town in the wapentake of **Birdforth**, situated 9 miles S. E. of **Thirsk**. This was once the residence of **Laurence Sterne**, the author of *Tristram Shandy*; a *Sentimental Journey in France*, &c.; works which reflect no honour on the character and office of the writer as a Clergyman; and which are as remarkable for their plagiarisms, as for their affected and indecent *Sentimentality*. Some of his Letters are dated from **Coxwold**; and it is said that he wrote some of his pieces at **Thirsk**, at the **Golden Fleece Inn**. He held the living of **Sutton**, and afterwards obtained the rectory of **Stillington**, both in the county of **York**. He was a frequent visitor at **Newburgh**.

“It is a curious fact, which is not generally known, that the body of the celebrated **Laurence Sterne**, which was interred in the church yard of **St. George, Hanover-square, London**, was taken up shortly after his burial, and devoted to the purpose of the surgical profession.” This is said to be a fact; we give it on the authority of a periodical Journal, published April, 1818. “Alas! poor **Yorick!**”



Here is a Free School, bearing date 1662, endowed by Sir John Hart, Knt. citizen and grocer of the city of London, who was elected Lord Mayor of that city, in the year 1589. The Chancel of the Church contains several monuments for the noble family of Belasyse, and one peculiarly elegant, for the Right Honourable Thomas, Lord Fauconberg, who died Dec. 31, 1700.\*

A more ancient monument to the memory of Sir William Belasyse, Knt. who died 14th April, 1603, exhibits the workman's name in the following curious legend, 'John Brown Did Carve this Tome, Himself alone, of Haslewood Stone.' But a still more ancient and curious stone in the nave, must not be omitted. A brass plate contains the following inscription,---Orate pro, aīabus, Jonis manston armig. qui obiit vi die mensis Octobris anno dñi M . cccc . lxiiii. Et Elizabeth . uxoris eīs qui obiit . . . die mensis . . . A. D. . M . cccc. . . . quor. aīabus ppicietur Ds. am. The reader will perceive a slight deficiency in the copy, occasioned by the erasure of the original.

A small Barrel Organ is a principal ornament in this church, which was the scene of Sterne's curacy. The patron is T. E. W. Bellasyse, Esq.

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\* Gazetteer of Yorkshire.

## NEWBURGH,

about 7 miles S. E. of Thirsk, and 5 miles N. E. of Easingwold, is the seat of Thomas Edward Winn Bellasyse, Esq.

This was one of the estates forfeited by Robert de Mowbray, first Earl of Northumberland, in the year 1095; (see p. 14), and which were afterwards given to Nigel de Albani, whose son Roger assumed the title of *Mowbray*.

In the year 1145, Roger de Mowbray founded here a priory of canons regular of the order of Saint Augustine, which had the honour of possessing as one of its members, the famous Historian, William of Newburgh. His History begins at the Conquest, and concludes with the year 1197. He was a violent persecutor of Geoffrey of Monmouth; and is supposed to have written better Latin than Matthew Paris, and fully equal to Kaumer and Malmsbury.\*

It was surrendered by the last Prior 23 Jan. 1539, and many of the properties and revenues granted by the King to the Archbishop of York,

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\* Rapin, I, 356.

and among them was the rectory of Thirsk. Its annual revenues were rated at £367 18s. 8d. Camden briefly notices '*Newbarrow*, to which we owe *William of Newbarrow*, an English Historian, learned and diligent; now it is the seat of the famous family *de Ballasise*, who are originally from the bishopric of *Darham*.'

No ruins remain of this abbey---all is buried in the dust.

"All has its date below; the fatal hour  
Was register'd in heav'n ere time began.  
We turn to dust, and all our mightiest works  
Die too: the deep foundations that we lay,  
Time ploughs them up, and not a trace remains;  
We build with what we deem eternal rock,  
A distant age asks where the fabric stood;  
And in the dust, sifted and search'd in vain,  
The undiscoverable secret sleeps."

### BYLAND ABBEY,

(q. d. *Belleland*, Camden) is situated about 10 miles S. E. of Thirsk, and was founded by the famous Roger de Mowbray.

Gerald,\* the Abbot of Furness, fled with twelve monks to York, having been disturbed by the incursions of the Scotch Army, about the middle of the 12th century. They were afterwards graciously received by Roger de Mowbray at his castle of Thirsk, by whom they were presented with the church and town of Byland. About the year 1177, the abbey of Hode was removed to Byland, where the present monastery was erected with the cathedral attached to it. Thus was transmitted to posterity the noble edifice called Byland Abbey, which flourished till the rapacious barbarity of the Eighth Henry plundered the retreats of 'cloister'd piety,' and confiscated to his own emolument, their extensive domains. In the year 1540, the last Abbot and 24 monks surrendered their abbey to the royal heretic, and with it their treasures, consisting of 7 bells, 100 fadders of lead, 516 ounces of plate, and best of all, a yearly revenue of £238. 9s. 4d. Sir William Pickering was granted the site, which subsequently came into the possession of the family of Stapylton.

To the calm retirement of Byland Abbey, did the unhappy Mowbray retreat, when wearied with the fatigues of a useless crusade, and robbed of his paternal mansion by the vengeance of the King.

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\* Yorkshire Gazetteer.

Here did he spend his last moments, and here did he lay his bones, when the cold hand of death consigned him to the grave.

In the year 1819, the owner of the ruined abbey caused to be disinterred this ancient hero: his remains, which had for 600 years slept in oblivious silence, were again brought to the light of day; and his bones were transported to Myton, where they were a second time committed to the dust.\*

At Byland Abbey was also buried Wismond, Bishop of the Isle of Man, an ecclesiastical warrior in the time of King Stephen. Being at length taken prisoner by the Scots, he suffered the loss of his eyes, and retired in the reign of Henry II. to this abbey, to lament the imprudence which had involved him in the calamities of war, and rendered him destitute and helpless. But Byland Abbey is no more: it has long ceased to afford refuge to the distressed: itself has long been involved in worse desolations than the desolation of war.

"I do love these ancient ruins--"

We never tread upon them, but we set

Our feet upon some reverend history;

And, questionless, here, in the open court,

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\* See p. 28.

Which now lies naked to the injuries  
 Of stormy weather, some men lie interred,  
 Loved the church so well, and gave so largely to't,  
 They thought it should have canopied their bones  
 Till doomsday; but all things have their end;  
 Churches and cities, (which have diseases like to men)  
 Must have like death that we have."

King Edward II., in the month of July, 1322, had penetrated the kingdom of Scotland, as far as the capital, but was compelled to retreat in September, by the ravages of famine. He took Byland Abbey in the way of his flight,\* and was there surprised by the army of the Scots, who pursued him. So sudden was the alarm, that in the hurry of flight, he left his plate, money, privy-seal, and other treasures, a valuable prey to the invaders; and hardly escaped by Burlington to York. The Scots burnt the monastery of Ripon in their progress, and ravaged the abbey of Beverley.†

The remaining ruins of this venerable edifice are well worthy of a visit. The West end of the Church is yet in a state of high conservation, exhibiting a rich specimen of beautiful architecture, (which is, however, but a medley of English and Saxon,) and giving rise to ideas most melancholy and most pleasing. To enter the door-way which

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\* Yorkshire Gazetteer.

† Rapin, I, 397.

has been passed successively by the noble Mowbrays, by a long list of ecclesiastics of various ranks, and by the Second Edward himself, in ages long lost in the vale of time; is indeed a singular gratification. Other parts of the building are in tolerable preservation, but destruction and desolation are supreme in their ravages.

A curious document respecting Byland Abbey has come to our hands; and as it may be worthy of preservation, as a specimen of ancient superstition; of legal verbosity scarcely to be exceeded even in the present day; and of "words that are stricken in years, and grown so aged that they have outlived their employment," we subjoin it in the Appendix, No. II.

### THIRKLEBY,

a small village, 4 miles S. E. of Thirsk, is the seat of Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. who is descended of an ancient family, supposed to have been seated in Yorkshire ever since the Conquest. This family has been allied to several distinguished houses in the kingdom, as well as to the Protectorate House of Cromwell. Sir Thomas Frankland, eldest son

of Sir Henry, the first Baronet, married a grand-daughter of the Lord Protector, and niece of Lord Fauconberg. The present venerable and worthy Baronet is the second son of the late Sir Thomas; was born in 1750; and received his education at Merton College, Oxford.\*

Thirkleby Church, a neat modern structure, was rebuilt by the late Sir Thomas Frankland, in 1722; and contains several monuments to the memory of various branches of the family. On a flat stone in the aisle :---

ANNA ASCOUGH

Vidua mœstissima, in memoriam

GULIELMI ASCOUGH, ARMIGERI,  
mariti charissimi, viri ingenio pollentis,  
animo invictissimi, moribus amœnissimi,  
filii natu maximi Gulielmi

ASCOUGH, MILITIS, adhuc  
superstitis, hoc monumentum posuit.

Obiit 18<sup>o</sup> die Novembris,

Ano. Dni. 1676.

A similar stone bears the arms and name of Burgoyne. On a tablet fixed against the South

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\* History of the Baronet Family of Frankland; in the Rev. Mark Noble's *Memoirs of the Protectorate House of Cromwell, and of Families allied to the Protector.*—Vol. II, No. XXXIV.



Wall near the door, is inscribed an epitaph to the memory of Arabella, wife of Sir William Frankland, and daughter of the Hon. Henry Belasyse; who died 26 Feb. 1687, æt. 50. Near this, the monument of Sir William himself, who died August 2, 1697; æt. 69, bearing the Frankland arms, azure, a dolphin naiant embowed, or, on a chief of the second, two saltires coupt gules: impaled with argent, a chevron, gules, between three fleurs de lis, azure. On the N. side---

Near this place

lies the body of Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart.

(second son of Henry Frankland,

Governor of Fort William in Bengal)

Admiral of the White :

who represented the Borough of Thirsk in six Parliaments.

He died at Bath, on the 21st November, 1784,

aged 66.

He married Sarah, daughter of Wm. Rhett, Esq of South Carolina; by whom he left seven sons and three daughters.

Near the above, a similar monument in memory of Capt. Robert Frankland, who died 25th December, 1757, at Bombay, while Commander of H. M. S. the Yarmouth.

On the South side of the Chancel, an elegant monument was erected in the year 1803, by Sir T. Frankland, Bart. and Dorothy, his wife, to the memory of Four Children; three of whom are there interred, the fourth in the Island of Madeira. A beautiful groupe of sculpture represents the parents weeping over the urns of their deceased offspring; and an inscription in gold letters surmounts the whole, "THY WILL BE DONE."

One object of curiosity in this church must not be overlooked---on the altar is placed a large brass charger or sacramental plate of apparent antiquity, curiously embossed, and representing in relievo, Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac. The youth kneels before a blazing altar; the sacrificial knife is already lifted for the fatal blow; but an Angel appears in the clouds, and the substituted ram is already detained in a thicket. The countenances of the patriarch and his son are worn away; but the general design is preserved.

The Church, which is a Vicarage in the gift of His Grace the Archbishop of York, forms an agreeable object from the beautiful mansion of the worthy Baronet, which is seated in a park of considerable extent, adorned with venerable trees of noble appearance.

## BAGBY

is situated on a rising ground, about 3 miles S. E. of Thirsk, and was, in the 12th century, a considerable place under the Mowbrays, having an extensive Hospital for the sick and poor, which was founded about the year 1200.

A guard of soldiers were, it is said, stationed in the town, for the defence of the inhabitants from the Banditti who infested the mountains of Sutton under Whitestonecliff, and spread their ravages into all the neighbouring villages and hamlets: till they were dispersed by command of Henry II., who dispatched 300 men to extirpate this band of outlaws. Hood Hill near Sutton was the scene of the engagement, in which the robbers were finally defeated.

Bagby (anciently *Pagby*) is a chapel of ease under Kirby-Knowle, the parish church being 10 miles distant. The tower was rebuilt in the year 1751; and the chapel has lately been beautified by whitewashing and painting; the latter in a very curious stile. A *Piscina*, near the altar, seems to prove antiquity; but from the architectural criteria,

the visitor will be unable to ascertain whether it was built by the Saxons or the Greeks; or whether it was not an imitation of the first cathedral erected at York, which we are told consisted of boards.

About 3 miles from the town of Helmsley, and 10 from Thirsk, stand the fine ruins of

### RIEVALX ABBEY,

upon the grounds of Charles Duncombe, Esq.

This extensive Priory was founded about the year 1131, and amply endowed by Sir Walter L'Espece, a wealthy Baron, who was also the founder of Kirkham Priory, in Yorkshire, and of Warden Abbey, in Bedfordshire; and was interred in this abbey, at Rievalx. Sir Walter, having lost his son by a fall from a horse, devoted a considerable part of his estate to pious uses. The abbey of Rievalx, dedicated to St. Mary, was endowed with landed property to the amount of fifty carucates, of which 9 were given by the founder, 12 by the crown, 12 by Roger de Mowbray, and 6 by the Bishops of Durham. There was also an extensive pasturage for upwards of 4000 sheep and cattle, in the neighbourhood, with free warren and other

privileges; but it is singular that not one donation of a church or chapel occurs, so that their spiritual income must have been very small. Their whole revenue is rated by Dugdale at £278. 10s. 2d.; by Speed at £351. 14s. 6d.; and with so small an income, there were at the surrender, 23 monks and the Abbot. There were no less than 31 successive Abbots of Rievalx. William, the first, died in 1146; Aelfred, the third Abbot, wrote a chronicle, beginning with the creation, and ending with Henry I.; he wrote also the Life of David, King of Scotland, and some other pieces: he died in 1167. The Abbot at the dissolution was Rowland Blyton.

St. Bernard, Abbot of Clareval, despatched some monks into England, who were honourably received by L'Espece, and allotted the ground of this abbey: this is said to have been one of the first institutions of the Cistercians\* in this kingdom.

The family of Roos were patrons of the abbey, in 1153.

The abbeys of Rievalx and Old Byland, were situated so near each other, that they each could hear the sound of the bells of the other abbey.

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\* So called from Cistercium, or Citeaux, in the diocese of Chalons. They were first settled in Waverley Abbey, in Surrey; and in 1151, there were 500 monasteries of that order.

The most ancient part, which has been coeval with the first erection, appears in the transepts, where the small Norman Windows bear unquestionable testimony to the period of their erection. The rest of the building bespeaks itself more modern. It is a singular circumstance, that the church, instead of standing East and West,\* approaches more to the direction of North and South; so that the choir is at the South end, and the North Aisle is on the East. This anomaly was produced by the rebuilding of the church, and making the body of the old serve as the transept of the new. The ruins of the cloister measure above 100 feet each way; and the refectory extends to the length of 100 feet, and in breadth between 30 and 40. Parallel to this, is another extensive ruins several feet longer, and about the same breadth, answering to the description of a dormitory. The Infirmary, Alms-House, Abbot's Chamber and offices, are also distinguishable among the general wreck; and the remains of the whole are more entire, and more interesting, than any in the district.†

The local situation of this romantic abbey may serve to explain a proverbial expression peculiar to

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\* See p. 64.

† Vide Young's History of Whitby, I, 447.

This part of Yorkshire. When a person cannot easily reach a place, without a circuitous route, or for want of a proper term, is compelled to make use of a circumlocution, it is a common saying, that "he is going round about *Rievulx* to seek old Byland." This adage is undoubtedly taken from the abbey, to which the road is almost circular; first down a very steep and craggy mountain, by many serpentine windings; then rising again much in the same manner on the opposite side; seeming sometimes to go direct to the place, and anon directly from it; sometimes on one side of it, and sometimes on another. This circumstance appears to be the foundation of the proverb.\*

The abbey is situated near the angles of three different vales, with each a rivulet running through them; that passing by where the abbey was built being called *Rie*, whence the vale took its name, and this religious house was thence called the *Abbey of Rievul*.

The site of the ruin was granted in 1533, to Thomas, Earl of Rutland; it afterwards became the property of George Villars, Duke of Buckingham; his son sold it to Sir Charles Duncombe, Kt. whose grand nephew, Thomas Duncombe, Esq. erected one of the finest terraces in England, upon the hill

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\* Gentleman's Mag. June, 1754.

which overlooks the abbey ;\* the house is ornamented with paintings executed by Burnice, an Italian artist, who was long employed by the noble owner for this purpose. The subjects are selected from heathen mythology.

A visit to this majestic ruin will amply repay the traveller ; the modern elegance of the neighbouring seat of Charles S. Duncombe, Esq. ; the ancient, but ruined splendour of the venerable monastery ; and the perennial beauties of the surrounding scenery ; unite to gratify the taste of the artist, the antiquary, and the lover of a fine prospect.

“ Here hills with vales, here woods with water vie ;  
 Here art with nature strives to feast the eye ;  
 Here Espec's towering fabric, clad with green,  
 And monkish grandeur, decorate the scene ;  
 Here architects engrave th' Ionic scroll,  
 And famed Burnice's pencil crowns the whole.”

### SUTTON-UNDER-WHITESTONECLIFF,

so called, to distinguish it from a dozen other *Suttons* in the county, is a hamlet of the parish of Felixkirk, from which it is distant about one and

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\* Gazetteer of Yorkshire.



a half mile. It is a considerable village, situate as its name imports, beneath a lofty precipitous point of the Hambleton Hills. It has no chapel of ease, but a neat Dissenting Chapel was, a few years since, erected by the generosity of the late Mr Squire, of Osgoodby.

At *Hood* (*Hode*) was an hermitage belonging to Whitby Abbey, where *Robert de Alnetto*, a monk of Whitby, lived for some time; but, in 1138, Roger de Mowbray, and Gundreda, his mother, purchased the place from the monks, and founded there a Cistercian Abbey, which was afterwards removed to Byland. The Church at Hood was dedicated to St. Mary and St. William. Robert de Alnetto, who was master of the hospital at Spital-Brigg, and founder of the hermitage, or cell, at Hood, was a Norman of noble birth, being brother to Gundreda Mowbray, under whose patronage he settled at Hood. When that place was made an abbey, in 1138, through the bounty of that Lady and her son Roger, he still continued in it under Gerald the first Abbot; and probably abode there till his death.\*

An ancient Stone Font, of curious workmanship, was, some years since, dug up at Hood; and is now preserved in the possession of John Bell, Esq. of

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\* Young's History of Whitby, I, 362, 400.

**Thirsk.** The stone, which is square at the base, is supported at the angles by four grotesque figures resembling those fabulous monsters which the Heralds term Sea Lions. Two opposite sides are decorated with as many indescribable beings; one apparently human, though mutilated, holding a book and a two-edged sword; the other supporting on a kind of shield an Agnus Dei, with its usual emblems, a staff, cross, and banner. The upper part being circular forms the bason, which is now hidden under a sun-dial. The whole forms an object well worthy of preservation.

A Stone Coffin, which was found in digging the ground for the erection of a thrashing machine, is placed in an *upright* position in the wall of a barn, by the unaccountable fancy of the discoverer. A similar curiosity is to be seen, *buried* in the wall of the farm house in the vicinity. The superior parts of two Gothic windows, are also remaining in a similar situation. The bones of several human bodies have been dehumated, the teeth of which were very perfect, and are preserved at the farm house, whose thick stone walls and antique window, testify its antiquity.

### GORMIRE.

Where smooth, unruff'd by the northern blast,  
The crystal LAKE, in alpine rocks enshrin'd,

Reflects the verdant scene, and gently bathes,  
 With silver waves around the grass grown feet  
 Of woody hills. There to his cackling dames,  
 On blooming heaths and secret lawns dispers'd,  
 The Gor-cock calls, the sultan of the grove !

The above lines from a work on Natural History, may perhaps suggest an etymology of the name of this beautiful Mere, or Lake, which they so exactly describe, where the *Gor-* ( or *Moor-* ) *Cock*, a wild fowl, peculiar to the North of England and Wales, may have frequented.

It is a fine lake of a mile in circumference, well worthy the attention of the curious. Its singular situation, elevated on a lofty conical eminence, and surrounded by romantic hills ; its beautiful appearance ; and the popular traditions respecting its origin ; render it an object of interest and pleasure. The lake is the property of Sir George Wombwell, Bart. of Newton ; and it is a singular circumstance, that the lake only belongs to Sir George, without any of the adjoining land.

The village grandames relate that this awful abyss was produced by a tremendous earthquake, which ingulphed a populous town and its secure inhabitants, in a moment of unexpected calamity : leaving behind it a body of waters, unfathomable and bottomless. From the same respectable au-

thority, it is asserted that the tops of houses and the desolate chimneys are sometimes visible to the astonished eyes of the stranger, when embarked upon these mysterious waters.

‘ Si qua domus mansit, potuitq : resistere tanto

‘ Indejecta malo ; *culmen tamen altior hujus*

‘ *Unda tegit, pressæq : labant sub gurgile turres.*

‘ - - - - *cymba sedet alter adunca,*

‘ Et ducit remos illic, ubi nuper ararat.

‘ Ille supra segetes, aut *mersæ culmina villæ,*

‘ Navigat :———’ *Ovid.*

In Dayes’s “Yorkshire,” it is observed that this “curious pool of water is round as a bason, and has all the appearance of the crater of a volcano.”

Without the embellishment of fiction, the natural beauties of this lake are sufficient to repay the labour of the visitor, its lofty situation commanding an unbounded prospect of the beautiful vale of Mowbray.

Whitestonecliff, or White Mare Crag.---March 25, 1755, many persons in the neighbourhood heard a loud noise, which seemed to proceed from the cliff, and which increased on the 26th. About 7 o’clock on the morning of the 27th, Edward Abbot, weaver, and Adam Rosomworth, bleacher, both of Sutton, riding beneath the scene of these strange

noises, heard a tremendous roaring, which they compared to the explosion of many cannons, proceeding from the cliff. Shortly after they witnessed the disruption of a fragment of the rock, four or five yards broad; which split and flew off from the top of the crag. Between ten and eleven in the forenoon, a part of the same rock, fifteen yards in thickness, thirty high, and from sixty to seventy in breadth, was torn off and hurled into the valley, with a report like the eruption of a volcano. The cause of this alarming phenomenon, which was naturally enough mistaken for an earthquake, was the lodgement of a large quantity of snow and rain in a cavity of the rock, which rent in pieces the solid stone, and produced those frightful convulsions, to the no small terror of the villagers. Traces of this awful avalanche remain in the fissures of the earth, which covers the foot of the Whitestonecliff; in the desolation which reigns on its rocky sides; and the huge fragments which were hurled into the fields and woods of the vicinity.

**FELISKIRK, OTHERWISE CALLED  
FELIXKIRK,**

is a small village, 3 miles N. E. of Thirsk; half a mile from which, at Mount St. John, William

Percy, in the reign of Henry I., founded a Preceptory of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem; which was granted by Henry VIII. in exchange, to the Archbishop of York. At its dissolution it was valued at £102. 13s. 10d. per annum.

The Church, a Vicarage in the gift of His Grace the Archbishop of York, is an ancient structure of considerable interest; containing an effigy of a Knight Templar, and another of a Lady, in excellent preservation, and well executed in stone. The Knight is habited in complete Norman ring-mail, bearing sword and shield, his legs being crossed to denote the order of knighthood.

“ There long hath lain behind that iron rail,  
The sculptur'd Knight, in curious marble mail;  
With hands uplift, and clasp'd, and grav'd beneath  
His lineage and achievements---fame's last wreath---  
The rustic mind incurious to his fame,  
The age that knew him, or his titled name:  
Or if mortality he ever wore,  
Or only liv'd in legendary lore!  
Or if in chivalry's advent'rous age,  
He lur'd the Turk at Salem to engage;  
And ere the holy Syrian vales he left,  
From many a Paynim's arm the crescent rest;  
Or worn at Tournay when his King was there,  
The envied favours of the fairest fair:

These to the sober swain no joys impart,  
 The herald's blazon, and the sculptor's art,  
 He careless of their beauty and intent,  
 What now they mean---or what they ever meant."

"The Knights Templars were a military order, which began about the year 1118, at Jerusalem. The institution was commenced by nine crusaders, who resolved to defend the pilgrims from the cruelty of the infidels, and to keep the passes free for such as visited the Holy Land. From so small a beginning they increased to such a degree, that they are said to have been at length possessed of nine thousand houses or convents, besides other great wealth. Their prosperity is said to have made them so insolent, and so abominably vicious, that even a *Pope* saw reason to suppress them: though some have thought their *riches* excited jealousy. In 1312, at the general council of Vienna, the order was abolished: next year the grand master was burned alive, and several others were executed. Much of their property was afterwards given to the Knights Hospitallers, who still subsist as Knights of Malta."

St. John's Mount introduces to the reader another victim of Protestant persecution, in the barbarous execution of William Harrington, a native of this place, who was, on the 18th of February, 1594, hanged, drawn, and quartered, at

curious object in Kilvington Church is the *Font*, which has engaged the attention of the Honourable Society of Antiquaries. Dr. Waddilove, Dean of Ripon, in a communication to the Society, published in the 16th Volume of *Archæologia*, gives an elaborate heraldic investigation of the arms which this font bears, and which are the insignia of a very ancient and noble family. It has been, the constant tradition of the neighbourhood, that it was removed to its present situation from the chapel of Upsal Castle: certain it is that Upsal Castle did descend to Sir Geoffrey Scrope, who was Chief Justice of England in the reigns of Edward II. and III.; and to their heirs, till the extinction of the family in the reign of Edward IV. "The font appears to have been made about this time, and probably by Thomas, the son of Lord John Scrope, Treasurer of England; for the arms of Chaworth, his mother, are engraven on it." It is, then, an octagonal stone vessel of large dimensions, having on its sides *nine* escutcheons, bearing, as we have said, the arms of Scrope. Round the foot, are eight several tablets, in relief, inscribed as follows:

Dns	Thomas	lcl	Scrop
et	elizabeth	uxor	eius.



On the octagonal form of this font, it deserves to be remarked, that the octagon had a mystical meaning in the ancient Christian Church; on which account they constructed their fonts for baptism in that form. In *Gruter's Inscriptions*, p. 1166, are verses of *St. Ambrose*, upon the font of *St. Thecla*.

Octagonus fons est munere dignus eo.  
Hoc numero decuit sacri baptismatis aulam  
Surgere, quo populo vera salus rediit.

It was a common observation, that as *six* was the number of Antichrist, so *eight*, of true Christianity. An octagon was represented on some ancient coins of Christian Princes.\*

"It may be added, that the font much resembles in shape and sculpture, but of a better design, the font at Bolton, of which a representation is given at p. 106, of Dr. Whitaker's History of Craven."

A Grave Stone in the church yard cannot but be admired for its beautiful simplicity, and the absence of that fulsome panegyric, which too often disgusts the passenger. Its inscription is this,

JONES.



The Rectory is in the gift of Sidney Coll. Camb.

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\* Camden, c. xci.

## UPSAL,

(*Up, up, Sal, hall*) is a small hamlet in the parish of South Kilvington, 4 miles N. E. of Thirsk, in an elevated situation upon the Hambleton Hills. The Scrope Family had a Castle here, which was the residence of the Lords Scrope, of Upsal.

It appears exceedingly probable that Upsal Castle was built by the family of Mowbray, so celebrated in the annals of Thirsk, and that from the following considerations; "The family of Scrope first appeared in Yorkshire in the reign of King John: here, it is well known, they flourished for many descents at Bolton Castle, in Wensleydale, till the time of John Lord Scrope, of Bolton, who married a *daughter of that third Roger de Mowbray*, who died in 1299. This John Lord Scrope had two sons; the eldest possessed of Bolton; the second, Sir Geoffrey, became Lord Scrope of Upsal, *in right of his mother*, and was Chief Justice of England in the reigns of Edward II. and III."\* In this family the title and castle of Upsal descended to Thomas Lord Scrope of Upsal, who was born 1461, with whom the male line closes. He left a daughter

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\* Archæologia, vol. XVI, p. 343.

named Alice, who intermarried with her relation, Henry Lord Scrope of Bolton, but left no issue. The estate of Upsal then reverted to Elizabeth, the sister of the said Thomas Lord Scrope, who married Sir Ralph Fitzrandolph, who then became possessed of Upsal Castle.

As Lord Scrope became possesd of Upsal by right of his wife, the daughter of the third Roger de Mowbray, it appears that it was previously in the family of Mowbray.\*

From a MS. in the British Museum (Harl. MSS. 542, fol. 34) it appears that 'the Lord Scrope of Yposall,' as well as 'the Lord Scrope of Bolton,' was among the nobility who 'came to Kynge Richard' at the battle of Bosworth Field. It is not improbable that he fell, as he is not included in the act of attainder passed by the Conqueror.

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\* The Compiler is here under the necessity of advert-  
ing to a mistake, induced by a similarity in the names,  
which has crept into Hargrove's Gazetteer of Yorkshire,  
p. 316, 2nd ed. art. UPSALL, which is thus noticed,  
"Wapentake of Birdforth, &c. The Percy family had  
formerly a castle here, where Lord William, of Upsall,  
resided, about the year 1270; and gave certain lands, in  
this place, to the nuns of the priory of Baredale, near  
Stokesly." The writer was here misled---William de  
Percy of Kildale, did indeed grant to the nunnery of  
Baredale "two oxgangs of land in the town of Upsall,"  
&c.,\* but it was Upsal in the wapentake of Langbargh,  
near Guisbrough.

\* Young's History of Whitby, p. 276.

Considerable vestiges are remaining to attest the spot, where stood the residence of the noble family of Scrope. The ruins have been converted into a farm house, and the barn walls exhibit a curious specimen of ancient architecture.

- - - - - Their bordering plains,  
 No more with piles of slaughter'd warriors heap'd,  
 Invaders and invaded, nor illum'd  
 By midnight gleams from hamlets wak'd by shout  
 Of dire incursion spreading flames and death,  
 Smile grateful. Mouldering on its craggy base,  
 Years of alarm, of conflict, and of woe,  
 The castellated mansion scarce records.

The situation is one of the finest imaginable---Elevated on a gentle declivity, the distant towers of York Cathedral are distinctly visible---and of the nearer prospect, though from another point of view, Mr. Gilpin observes, "Here nature hath wrought with her broadest pencil; the parts are ample; the composition perfectly correct; I scarce remember, anywhere, an extensive view, so full of beauties and so free from faults. The vale, of which this view is composed, hath not yet entirely lost its ancient name, *The vale of Mowbray*. This vale extends from York, almost to the confines of Durham; is adorned by the Swale and the Ure; and is, certainly, one of the noblest tracks of country, of any kind, in England."

The following lines, from Gisborne's "**Walks in a Forest**," may apply to our **Walks in the Vale** :---

"God clothes his works with beauty. What tho' here  
He has not wrapp'd in clouds the mountain's head  
Magnificent, nor pil'd the fractur'd rock ;  
Nor delved the stony cavern stretching wide  
Its unsupported roof ; nor down the steep  
Pour'd the loud cataract ; nor bid the lake  
Expand its lucid mirror to the sun ;  
Nor ocean's billowy surges wash the base  
Of promontories, whose white cliffs with fowl  
Swarming of every sea-born tribe, resound  
With countless wings, and never wearied cries ;  
Yet has his hand the intermingling charms  
Of hill and valley, lawn, and winding dell,  
In rich exuberance spread ; yet has his hand  
Hung these wild banks with sylvan majesty."

In the farm-yard at Upsal lies a massy fragment of granite, similar to that at Thirsk. We should wish to inscribe upon it the following Hexameter :

"Si non vis jacere hunc lapidem, permitte jacere."

Upsal Village and Castle are now the property of Edmund Turton, Esq.

About halfway between Thirsk and Upsal stands a house, which has long been known by the name of *Nevison-Hall*, said to have been the occasional

- residence of a man, about a century and a half ago, who was very celebrated in his way. Though William Nevison was born at Pontefract, we cannot call him an "Honest Yorkshireman." He was, in fact, the most notorious robber and highway-man of the age in which he lived. His various exploits have been recorded in the calendars of different gaols in the kingdom. A pamphlet, printed at York a few years ago, records his life and adventures, till they were terminated by the due reward of his deeds---on the gallows at York.

Near the village of Upsal, in the parish of Kirby Knowle, *New Building*, the seat of Mrs Smyth, is so stiled, from its having been built from the ruins of a former mansion, or the neighbouring castle. To the stranger, such an appellation may seem to savour of the old Roman term *lucus, a non lucendo*: but considered in reference to its ancient circumstances, its propriety will be perceived. *New Building* is, then, a mansion of venerable age, said to have been rebuilt on the site of a former mansion destroyed in the Civil Wars along with Upsal Castle, by Sir James Danby; from whose family it passed to those of Rokeby and Buxton, from whom it came to the family of the present possessor. Its architecture is of the Old English stile. The situation is exceedingly romantic, being surrounded by woods, on the declivity of a beautiful hill, yet commanding an extensive prospect in front of the country from

York to Northallerton. It forms a fine object in the neighbourhood of Thirsk; its lofty battlements being distinctly seen in a circuit of many miles.

### KIRBY KNOWLE,

a small village, 5 miles N. E. of Thirsk, the name implying its situation, a *church-village* in the *knolls*, or hills. It stands in a low but romantic situation, being surrounded by an amphitheatre of hills, among which New Building appears conspicuous, a fine and towering object. It seems there are *fourteen* other Kirby's in the county, which need not surprise us, when it is recollected that Yorkshire is larger than any two counties in the kingdom; and, in extent, exceeds all the seven United Provinces of Holland, connected.

The Church is said to be one of the oldest in the kingdom, though at present it exhibits but few evidences of antiquity, except the fine pointed arch supported by massive abutments, which separates the chancel from the nave; and a part of one of the Southern Windows. The chancel was rebuilt a few years ago. There is not a fragment of painted glass, nor a single vestige of Romish superstition.

Nor any monument of any age, to be met with in the church. Modern improvements have swept them all away. There are eight small brass plates, six of which are detached from the floor where they were once fixed, on which are inscriptions to the memory of different branches of the families of the Danby's, Rokeby's, and Buxton's, who formerly were the possessors of New Building. None of them are very ancient. The dimensions of the church are very small, being about 66 feet in length, and 12 feet in breadth.

In the church yard are two ancient rude stone pillars on pedestals, a few feet from each other, which doubtless were a sort of crosses, which are met with in some church yards, of better execution.

The living is in the gift of Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. Bagby is a chapelry under Kirby Knowle.

### LEAKE,

6 miles N. E. of Thirsk, in Allertonshire, extends its parochial dominion over Knayton and Borrowby, though now reduced to a solitary farm-house.



The Church is ancient; the nave and tower being Norman, or perhaps even Saxon Architecture; the aisles and chancel, early Gothic. The tower contains three bells, one of which is reported to have been brought from Rievalx Abbey. They bear the following inscriptions, the first, in antique English capitals,

+ o ⁂ pater : aelrede : grendale : miseri : misera  
 2, Jesus be our speed 1618.  
 3, Fily dei miserere mei 1618.\*

The tower of Leake Church appears to be of the same date as the nave, and may be regarded as a beautiful specimen of the later Saxon stile of church architecture. Bells were applied to sacred purposes in the monastic societies of Northumbria so early as the 7th century; and Kinseus, Archbishop of York in the 9th century, provided that the churches in his diocese should be furnished with bells.

Aelred is evidently a Saxon name; but the form of the letters denotes a period subsequent to the Norman Conquest.

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\* For the information of the English Reader we translate the above curious inscriptions. "O Father, have mercy on the miserable Aelred Grendale." "O Son of God, have mercy upon me." Misera seems to be the imperative of the old verb misero for miserere.

The character commonly known by the name of *Old English* first took place in England, about the middle of the 14th century. The inscription on Thirsk bell is of this sort : but Leake bell is evidently much older. The letters approach more to the *mixed Saxon*, which was used in the 9th, 10th, and beginning of the 11th centuries ; or perhaps to the Lombardic or *Norman*, introduced by the Conqueror.\* If this is correct, the bell may be 700 years old. For any thing which appears to the contrary, it may probably have come from Rievalx Abbey, and may have been the gift of Aelred, the third Abbot, author of the chronicle, who died in 1167.†

A curious specimen of ancient carving in the South Aisle, bears the date m, d, 19, with the figure of a saint in fine preservation, and an inscription now hidden by a modern *improvement*.

A brass plate, on a flat stone in the nave, is inscribed in Old English characters :

Of yor. charite p. for ye soules of John watson  
aūtyme Auditor to ye lord Scrope of upsall and  
Alice his wife wth three childn whos soules Jesu  
pdon.

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\* Chambers's Dict. Art. Writing. † See p. 113.

Several stone coffins have been, at different times, dug up in Leake Church Yard, which the inhabitants ascribe to the Danes.

### MOUNTGRACE ABBEY.

About 10 miles from Thirsk, and 7 from Northallerton, was situated Mountgrace Abbey.

Thomas Hoyland, Duke of Surry and Earl of Kent, founded a Carthusian Priory here, and dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin and St. Nicholas, about the year 1396: he was one of the nobles, who, in 1398, conspired against Henry IV. to restore Richard II.; but being defeated in Gloucestershire, by the men of Cirencester, he was beheaded with the Earls of Huntington, Salisbury, and Gloucester: this fatal event delayed the progress of the building, till Henry VI. confirmed the grants in 1449; after which it flourished till the general dissolution; when its revenues were valued at £382. 5s. 10d. per annum. The site was granted in 1540 to James Strangeways.

In the 9th of Henry III. an Act of Parliament was made, to restrain people from giving lands to the religious. Nevertheless, in this long reign

of 56 years, there was founded at Moulton, near Richmond, *BEGAR*, a priory of Carthusians, made an annex cell to the Abbey of that name in Bretagne; which, upon the suppression of foreign houses, was first granted to the chantry of St. Ann at Thirsk, then to Eton College; afterward to the Carthusian Priory at Mountgrace, near Osmotherly; and lastly to Eton College again.\*

The ruins of this abbey still retain the semblance of grandeur, though in a state of gradual decay. The church walls stand uncovered, and exposed to the fury of every tempest; the tower still lifts its head, and braves the lapse of ages. The kitchen and other apartments are paved with flag stones, and severally declare their former destinations. The cemetery is on an elevated situation; and the whole remains are venerable and worthy of notice. The property is at present in the ancient family of Mauleverer. A view of the abbey is engraved at p. 523 of *Spencer's Complete English Traveller*, folio, 1773.

At *Arncliffe*, in this neighbourhood, was born the Rev. David Simpson, M. A. Minister of Christ-Church, Macclesfield, in Cheshire, author of "*A Plea for Religion, and the Sacred Writings*," and other valuable works. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, and died in 1799.

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\* *History of Richmond*, p. 63.

## THORNTON-LE-STREET,

a small village in Allertonshire, the property of SAMUEL CROMPTON, Esq. M. P., is situated upon the great Roman Road from *Eboracum* to the North, and upon the present great Edinboro' Road.

All the Roman Roads, being firmly paved with stone, were called *streets*, as Watling-street, &c. *Stratum*, is the word made use of by venerable Bede, quite through his work, to denote a Roman Road.

The Church, a Vicarage in the gift of Christ Church, Oxford, is a very ancient structure, principally consisting of the Norman order of architecture, having no transept, and originally no tower, and being of a plain oblong shape, probably erected prior to the invention or introduction of the high pointed arch into this country. The fine venerable round arch, and its carved work, are sufficient evidence of the antiquity of the South Door; and the irregular capitals of the pillars which support the arch leading to the chancel, are decidedly Norman. The windows are of a minute and lancet-shape description, the usual concomitants of those churches which were erected before the end of the 12th cen-

tury. A piscina is yet remaining near the altar, and a stone bason for holy water, appears to have left a vacancy in the wall near the S. Door.

Three Latin inscriptions on brass appear in the chancel, to the memory of Roger Talbot, Esq., a Captain in the pay of King Charles I., who died Oct. 2d, 1680---of Bridget Pudsey, who died 24th, April, 1684---and of Elizabeth Pudsey, who died 1st Dec. 1694: all ancestors of the present family of Crompton, of Wood-end. An elegant marble monument on the N. side of the chancel has been erected to the memory of Roger Talbot, of Wood-end, and Sarah his wife. He died 7 March, 1777, æt. 64. She, the 27 Nov. 1792, æt. 82.

Several hatchments, bearing the arms of this family, attest the plain truth, that wealth cannot confer an exemption from the common lot of mortality. The more recent ones bear---1. Argent, three lions rampant, sable; on an inescutcheon, azure, a cross flory, or. 2. The same coat impaled with azure, a dolphin naiant embowed, and a chief, or, bearing two saltires coupé, gules. Motto: *Toutjours fidele.*

In this neighbourhood stands *Wood-end*, the seat of Samuel Crompton, Esq. M. P. for Retford.

## KIRBY WISKE,

Is in the wapentake of Gilling East, 4 miles W. by N. of Thirsk. The name imports the *church-village*, upon the *water*, *Wiske*, or *Wysge*, a British term, signifying *water* or *river*. The living is a Rectory, in the diocese of Chester, in the gift of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

This village is chiefly remarkable for being the birth-place of ROGER ASCHAM, a celebrated literary character of the 16th, century. His father, John Ascham, was house-steward in the family of Scroop.

He was born in 1515, and educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, where he obtained a fellowship, and was appointed teacher of Greek. In 1544, Henry VIII., settled a pension of £10. a year upon him; and in 1548, he was appointed classical tutor to Lady Elizabeth, with whom he read most of Cicero's works, the orations of Isocrates, the plays of Sophocles, and other ancient authors. After being thus honourably employed two years, he returned to Cambridge, where he filled the office of public orator with great reputation, and was honoured with a pension by King Edward VI. In 1550, he attended Sir Richard Morysine, in his embassy to Charles V., and remained in Germany three years.

During this time he was appointed Latin Secretary to the King, but on the death of that Prince, he lost his place and pension. Ascham had the singular good fortune, though known to be a Protestant, to escape the anger of Queen Mary, and even enjoyed the favour of the Princess, who appointed him her secretary. On the accession of Elizabeth, he was continued in his office, and farther made her private tutor in the learned languages. When she heard of his death, that economical Princess exclaimed, that she would rather have lost ten thousand pounds. The only preferment he ever obtained was a prebend in the cathedral at York. His most esteemed work is entitled, "The Schoolmaster": his Latin Epistles have been frequently printed, and are admired by all good judges of elegant composition. His talents were so blended with activity, that he wrote for Mary, in the space of 3 days, letters to 47 Princes, the meanest of whom was a Cardinal. He died at London, 30th Dec. 1568. His attachment to dice and cock-fighting kept him miserably poor. The celebrated Buchanan lamented his death in the following lines :---\*

Aschamum extinctum patriæ, Graiæq; Camœnæ,

Et Latæ vera cum pietate dolent.

Principibus vixit carus, jucundus amicis,

Re modicâ, in mores dicere fama nequit.

Epigr. Lib. II

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\* Adams's Great Britain. Biog. Brit.



Anthony Ascham, probably of the same family, was born at Bunnistow, in this neighbourhood; and was presented to that living by Edward VI. He published several tracts on astrology, and a book entitled "A lyttel Herbal of the properties of Herbs, &c." 1550.\*

At *Newsham*, in this parish, was born in 1642, the learned *Dr. George Hickes*. He descended from the Hickes's of Nunnington, in Yorkshire, formerly a considerable family; went to the grammar school at Northallerton, under Mr Thomas Smelt, (when Mr Thomas Rymer, Historiographer Royal, and author of "Fœdera," &c. was his school-fellow) whence he removed to St. John's College, Oxford. In 1683 he was made Dean of Worcester, of which he was deprived at the Revolution for refusing the oaths. King James had made him suffragan Bishop of Thetford: He wrote several theological treatises and sermons, close and argumentative, and full of excellent learning well applied; but his chief works are, "*Linguarum veterum Septentrionalium Thesaurus*, fol;" and "*Grammatica Anglo-Saxonica, et Mæso-Gothica*," 4to. He died in 1715.†

*John Hickes*, brother of the above, educated at Trinity College, Dublin, was first Minister of Stoke Damarel, Devonshire; which living being in

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\* Biog. Dict.

† Biog. Dict.

the gift of the crown, he was obliged to quit at the Restoration; when he removed to Saltash, in Cornwall, where he was ejected by the Act of Uniformity, in 1662. He was a learned and pious man, but wanting in discretion. This may account for his unhappily being drawn in to join the Duke of Monmouth's Army, in 1685, which brought him to a tragical end. With a multitude of others, he suffered death at the *Bloody Assizes* in Judge Jefferies's "campaign" in the West, as the King was pleased to call it. He published a pamphlet, entitled, "A sad Narrative of the Oppression of many honest People in Devon, &c." and "A Discourse of the Excellency of the heavenly Substance." He drew up an interesting narrative of his whole conduct respecting the affair which proved so fatal to him; which, with a speech which he delivered at the time of his execution, may be seen at length in Turner's "History of Remarkable Providences," ch. 143.\*

The Church of Kirby Wiske and its dependent chapels, were granted by William de Kirby, to the priory of Guisborough; but were afterwards given up for some lands at Alesby, in Lincolnshire.† The church is ancient and handsome, but possesses no very remarkable objects of attention, save a

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\* Nonconf. Mem.

† Young's Whitby, 419.

noble Gothic Canopy in the North Wall of the Chancel, over a tomb without effigy or inscription. A piscina and three stalls grace the opposite side. The roof of the building was renewed in the year 1811, when some new windows were inserted in the South Aisle. The *taste* of the architect lowered the East Window, and taking off the mullions and the pointed arch, left it a strange square hole rather than a window. There are yet some escutcheons of painted glass in this

“Wyde wyndowe ywrought ywritten ful thikke,  
Shynen with shapen shaldes to shewen aboute.”

The clock is reported to have come from the castle of Brackenburgh. The North Door is a venerable remain of antique architecture; apparently more ancient than the door of either Sowerby or Thornton-le-Street Churches, which we have before noticed. The shafts of the columns have been removed, but their capitals remain, with the curiously carved arch, in the Saxon stile.

Different antiquities have sometimes been discovered in the neighbourhood of Kirby. Some labourers cutting a drain through some embankments, resembling the foundations of an extensive building, or a Roman Encampment, laid bare a pavement of some sort; which has long since been

destroyed, and of which the villagers can give no intelligible account. A silver handled weapon, with some ancient coins, were also discovered.

The Rev William Leapor, M. A., rector of Kirby Wiske, published a sermon, "On the Licentiousness of the Tongue," in 1764.

"BRACKENBURGH, on the opposite bank of the Wiske, was anciently a castle belonging to the family of Lascelles. Camden notices it as "*Brackenbak*, belonging to the truly ancient and famous family of *Lascelles*."

Roger de Lascelles was summoned to parliament amongst the barons, in the 22 Edward I. and following year.

The castle has disappeared. Till the erection of the present farm house, which occupies its site, a good room yet remained; but which modern *improvements* have destroyed. Thus, in the words of Sir Thomas Browne, "Time antiquates antiquities, and hath an art to make dust of all things."

STON-HILL is in this parish.

Half a mile to the W. of Kirby Wiske, stands Dannocty Hall, formerly the residence of a man of that name, who is said to have been a counterfeiter of the current coin of the realm. He is said to have had apartments in this house, fitted up in a very

secret manner, which enabled him to carry on his unlawful trade to a great extent. A man of the name of Busby, who married his daughter, was concerned with him in the above practices. A dispute arising between them, as it is thought about their concerns, and Busby being desirous of carrying on the whole of the trade by himself, murdered his father-in-law; for which he was tried, and condemned, and hung in chains, near Carlton, and the place is called *Busby Stoop* to this day.

It must have occurred to the thought of many of our readers, that our History has exhibited several instances of persons in different ranks of society, whose lives were terminated in a tragical manner---nobles and plebeians, ecclesiastics and laymen. The last of these instances has been the worst. Our researches seem to have "fallen upon evil days." It is some consolation, however, to recollect, that these are the records of centuries and times long since past and gone. We are not among those, who think that the present times are worse than the past. While there is still occasion enough for improvement in the state of public morals, we believe that a great amelioration has taken place. The cessation of civil war, the religious toleration introduced into our laws, and particularly the influence of religious instruction among the lower ranks of life, may be considered as some of the means of producing such beneficial effects.

## LEEMING LANE,

the ancient Roman Military Road, called *Via Helenæ*, passes about 7½ miles to the W. of Thirsk. Dr. Stukely supposes this road to have received its latest repairs from the Empress Helena, while she remained in Britain as her son's substitute, and that it thus derived its name, *Via Heleneana*, since corrupted into *Leeming Lane*. The Dr. further observes, that this was part of the Herman-Street, leading to Inverness, in Scotland.

Mr Drake, the historian of York, published an account of all the Roman Roads in Yorkshire.

The public roads of the Romans, like most of their works, were constructed on a grand scale. We may suppose the roads they made in Britain, were similar to those constructed in Italy. The *Via Appia* was a wonderful work. It is computed to have been 350 miles in length. Bishop Burnet,\* who had travelled upon a part of it, between Rome and Naples, says in his Letters, that "it is twelve feet broad; all made of huge stones, most of them blue; and they are generally a foot and a half

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\* Burnet, Let. IV. Kennett's Rom. Antiq. p. 59.

large on all sides: that though it has lasted above 1800 years, yet in most places, it is for several miles together as entire as when it was first made."\*

Here, we close our excursions, as the Roman Poet and Traveller closed the first part of his Descriptive Tour, and on this celebrated Roman Road:---

Hoc iter ignavi divisimus, altius ac nos  
Præcinctis, unum: minus est gravis APERA tardis.



## APPENDIX,

### No. I.

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FROM a record now in the possession of John Bell, Esq. Lord of the Manor of Thirsk.

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**AN** account of such who have been, severally, owners of ye Manors or Lordships, and ~~demolished~~ Castles of Thirske, and Kirby Malzert in Com. Ebor. since ye Conquest.

These Lordships were as may be presumed given by the Conquerour to Gilbert Bishopp of Constance, who for his service done to the Conquerour in that signal battaill against Harold was afterwards also made Earle of Northumberland; but ye same Earle dying about ye beginning of Willm. Rufus reigne; his possessions together with his title were by the same King, conferred upon Robert de Molbray, Sonn of Róger de Molbray who came in with the Conquerour, which Robert in his rebellion against King Willm. in endeavouring to advance his Aunt's Sonn ye Earle of Albemarle to ye Crowne forfeited all his lands and dignity to ye King, which remained in the Crowne, untill about ye beginning of Hen. I, who gave the same to Nigole de Albini, younger brother of Wm. de



Albini Earle Arundell and Cosson (Cousin) by his Mother to yee said Earle Molbray as being Sonn of Molbray, who was Sister of Roger de Molbray ffather of ye said Robert de Molbray.

To which said Nigole Albini succeeded Roger his Eldest Sonn, to his ffather's lands and dignities and by K. H. speciall command, for the reasons aforesaid did assume the name of Moubray. This Roger about ye 20th of H. 2. sided with the Prince to set him up King in his ffather's life time, butt having his Castles of Oxholme and Mallizard besieged and taken by the Bpp. of Lincoln (ye King's base Sonn) he hasted to ye King then at Northampton and surrendered his Castle of Thirsk; and thereupon had his pardon granted, which said Castles of Thirsk and Kirby Malazard ye King soone after caused to be demolished. This Roger about 1143 founded ye Abbey of Byland, and in 1145 the Priory of Newbrough, in Com. Ebor. and gave to the Abbey of ffountains all Bramley and Netherdale, and all his lands between Pately Gate and Ewdon. He was twice at Hyrusalem.

To this Roger succeeded Nigoll his Eldest Sonn, who died about 3 R. 1.

To whom succeeded Wm. his eldest Sonn. This Wm. was one of the Barons who took up ye armes agst King John for the confirmations of the Kingdom's Liberty. He founded a Chapele at Thirske; and also a Chantry therein, and dedicated the same to St. Nycholas, and agreed with ye Monkes of Newbrough that although it was not a parochiall Church, yette ye Beles shd be rung at ye Celebration of Mass there whensoever he or any of his Quris should be present, and on ye ffestival of St. Nicholas and ye Obitts of his Ancestors. And he died about ye 7 of H. 3, and was buried at Newbrough.

To this Wm. succeeded Nigole his eldest Sonn and died without Jssue ye 13th of Hen. 3.

To whom succeeded Roger his Brother and heire who died ye 51st of H. 3 leaving Jssue:

Roger his eldest Sonn who succeeded him in his Lands and dignitys: This Roger about ye 10th of Ed 1 entailed all his lands and Lordships in Comt. Ebor. upon himself and heires of his bodye and for want of sure Jssue upon Henry de Lacy Earle of Lincolne and his heirs: and died at Gaunt about ye 26th Ed. 1., and was buried at ye Abbey of ffontains leaving Jssue:

John his Eldest Sonn and heire to his father's lands and dignities, who for his rebellion against ye King in siding against ye Spensors, was in ye battle at Booroubridge, about ye 14th of Ed. 2, taken and hanged at Yorke and his lands seized into ye King's hands. This John left Jssue John his Eldest Sonn whom in ye 1st Ed. 3, had livery of all his lands, and died of ye plague at Yorke about ye 35 Ed. 3, leaving Jssue:

John his Eldest Sonn and heire who was slaine nigh Constantinople in his passage to ye Holy Land about ye 42 of Ed. 3, leaving Jssue:

John his Eldest Sonn and heire who at ye Coronacion of R. 2, was made Earle of Notingham; but died soon after (viz.) about ye 4 of R. 2 without Jssuc, leaving his younger Brother Thomas to succeed him in his Lands and Dignitys, and soone after he was made Ld. Marshall of England, by reason of his being great Grandchild and heire to Thos. of Bothereton, second Son of Ed. 1, (who was Earle of Norfolk and Earle Marshall of England,) very Sonn and heire of John ye 3, by Elizabeth his Wife, who was daughter and heir to John Ld. Segrave by Margaret his Wife, who was sole heire to ye said

**Thomas of Brotherton.** This Thomas was also about ye 20 of R. 2, created Duke of Norfolk, yett afterwards banished, during his life, and died of ye pestilence at Venice about ye 1 H. 4, leaving Issue 2 Sonnes, Thomas and John, and 2 daughters, Issabell married to Sir James Barkley and Margaret married to Sir Robert Howard.

Thomas succeeded his ffather and died without Issue about ye 6th of H. 4, being beheaded at Yorke for his siding with Richard Scroope Archbishop of Yorke agst ye King and left John his brother to succeed him, who about ye 14 H. 4; upon proof of his age had livery of all his lands and was restored to his ffather's dignities by H. 5, and died about ye 14 H. 6, leaving

John his Sonn and heir to inherit all his lands and dignities, who dying about ye 17 of Ed. 4, left Issue only one daughter, who was married to Rd. Duke of Yorke, 2nd Sonn of King Edward 4, but dying without Issue all these and other his great possessions descended to ye heires of ye said Margaret and Issabell daughters of Thomas de Mowbray first Duke of Norfolk, and upon extinction thereof, ye abovesaid Lordships of Threske, and Kirby Malazard amongst other lands, fell to ye parte of Wm. Marquess of Burkley as Sonn and heir of ye abovementioned Issabell, which William was afterward created Earle of Northampton and about ye 4 of Hen. 7, being likely to have no Issue of his own bodye, gave not only divers lands and mannors to Sir Wm. Stanuly Ld. Chamberlayne of ye King's Household, but also to Thomas Stanley Earle of Darby ye mannors of Donnington Thwaites Threske, Hoovingham, Kirby Malazard and Burton in Lonsdale in Com. Ebor. and ye mannors of Wenge Segrave in Pen. and Marlow in Comm. Buck., ye mannor of Denger in Com. Essex Egsworthy.

Belton, &c. in Comm. Lincoln; Allspath in Moreden in Com. War. Slagham in Com. Sussex, &c. to hold to ye said Earle and heires of his body. This Earle died about ye month of October 1504, 19th H. 7, and lies buried in ye Priory of Bursough nigh Latham, in Com. Lancas.\*

## No. II.

## CHARTER OF BYLAND ABBEY.

CHARLES, by the Grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. &c.

To all to whom these present letters shall come---Greeting. We have seen these Letters Patent of our Lord, Henry the Second, late King of England, our Ancestors made in those words. HENRY, by the Grace of God, King of England, Duke of Normandy and Aquistane, Earl of Ang. To our Archbishops, Abbots and Deacons, Deans, Earls, Barrons, Justices, Sheriffs, Ministers, Mayors of Cities, Boroughs and Sea Ports, and to all our Subjects of England and Normandy---Greeting. Know

\* Thomas of Brotherton, son of Edward I. mentioned in the above interesting document, was so called from the village of Brotherton, in the West Riding of Yorkshire; where Margaret, wife of King Edward I. was obliged to stop when hunting, and was there delivered of a son, afterwards named Thomas de Brotherton; he was born June 1, 1300. Not far from the church is a piece of ground, surrounded by a wall and a trench, where, as tradition says, stood the house where the Queen took up her abode.---Yorkshire Gazetteer.

you that the Abbey of Byland, and the Abbot of the same Abbey, and the Monks and these Brethren, serving God therein, and the land and tennements, men and possessions, and all the things before named of the said Abbey, in my hand, custody, and protection; wherefore I will and firmly command, that as to the Abbot and Monks aforementioned of the said Abbey, may hold and enjoy all the lands and tennures, tennements and things, and possessions, which are as well in Churches as in Law matters, well and in peace, freely, absolutely and quietly, wholly, fully and honourably, in woods, grounds and levels, in meadows and in pasturages, in lands and waters, in vintages and fisheries, in marshes and forests, in pools and mills, in tofts and crofts, in ways and hedges, and in all other easements, liberties and free customs; and that they may be acquitted, as well their Heirs and Servants, in cities, in boroughs, in markets, in fairs, wheresoever they shall be; and I will, that they shall have free liberty in their passage of bridges and seaports, in all places throughout England and Normandy, and through all my estates, of and from; to have free passage through all tollage, bridge toll, footage or liberty, and horses, carts or carriages of all sorts to pass through any forest: Liberty to keep and hunt with greyhounds and hounds; all Dane-gelt, shield money, thyde money or tribute on an hide of land, tribute for lands in tillage, Sheriff courts, assizes, pleas, complaints, summonses, records, suit or service at the county wapontake, and tithing, and of all our common assizes of the penalty which to murderers and fugitives belong, as well as from or of the aids of the sheriffs and his bailiffs, and of all things thereto belonging, and all other aids and escourts, and of wards, wastes, and pleas of the forest, and from servitudes and exactions secular. Also I grant that they, the said Monks or their successor, may have liberty of their courts of all

their lands and tenements with sorage, and esto-  
vers, and stallage, and insang, of these to wit: all  
privilege of some Lords to pass judgment of theft  
committed by their servants within their own ju-  
risdiction, and outsang theft, to wit: a privilege  
enabling a Lord to bring to trial in his own county  
persons living within his own Fee, that is appre-  
hended for felony in any other place; and all forfi-  
tures of and concerning land and all their appur-  
tenances wheresoever the same shall be, either in  
my court or any other: And with prohibition  
concerning any man of theirs which they shall  
implead or answer, unless before Me or my Chief  
Justice: And that none of the aforesaid Abbots  
or Monks or their lands and possessions or their  
men, against this Charter of their liberty, may be  
aggrieved, vexed, or disturbed under the penalty  
of Ten Pounds. ALL these I grant and confirm  
unto them for ever, AN ALMS FOR THE SOUL OF  
KING HENRY, MY GRANDFATHER, AND FOR  
THE SALVATION OF MY SOUL, AND OF  
ALL MY PREDECESSORS AND SUCCESSORS.---  
*WITNESS. Richard of Winchester, Jeoffrey of  
Ely, John of Norwich, Bishops Walter of Con-  
stance, Master John Commain, Richard of Lare,  
Sir Ralph Ranolds of Courtney, W. Lumley,  
and Thomas Basset, at Westminster: also the  
Letters Patent aforesaid, and all and every thing  
contained, have ratified and confirmed for us, our  
heirs and successors, as in us layeth, and the same  
we accept and approve, and to our beloved and  
trusty Sir Edward Walton, now tenant of the afore-  
said Monastery or Abbey of Byland, and to his  
heirs I ratify and confirm, and as the aforemen-  
tioned Letters Patent to me reasonably witness  
to be made Patent. Witness ourselves at West-  
minster, over England, Scotland, France and  
Ireland,*

## No. III.

BURIAL GARLANDS, IN TOPCLIFF  
CHURCH.

"The virgins to thy tomb will garlands bear  
Of flow'rs, and with each flow'r let fall a tear?"

The following Extract from the *Gentleman's Magazine*, for June, 1747, may explain the nature and intention of these ancient memorials.

---

"In this nation (as well as others) by the abundant zeal of our ancestors, virginity was held in great estimation; insomuch that those who died in that state were rewarded at their deaths, with a garland or crown on their heads, denoting their triumphant victory over the inclinations of nature. These garlands were curiously wrought in fillagree work with gold and silver wire, in resemblance of myrtle, whose leaves were fastened to hoops of larger wire of iron. Besides these crowns, the ancients had also their depository garlands, the use of which were continued even till of late years, (and perhaps may still be retained in some parts of the kingdom) which garlands, at the funerals of the deceased, were carried solemnly before the corpse by two maids, and afterwards hung up in some conspicuous place within the church, in memorial of the departed person, and were generally made after the following manner:---the lower rim or circle was a broad hoop of wood, whereunto was

fixed, at the sides thereof, part of two other hoops crossing each other at the top, at right angles, which formed the upper part, being about one-third longer than the width; these hoops were wholly covered with artificial flowers of paper, dyed horn, or silk, and more or less beauteous, according to the skill or ingenuity of the performer. In the vacancy of the inside, from the top, hung white paper, cut in form of gloves, whereon was written the deceased's name, age, &c. together with long slips of various coloured paper, or ribbons. These were many times intermixed with gilded or painted empty shells of blown eggs, as farther ornaments; or, it may be, as emblems of the bubbles or bitterness of this life; whilst other garlands had only a solitary hour-glass hanging therein, as a more significant emblem of mortality. In many churches these garlands have been taken down by order of the minister and churchwardens, being considered as unsuitable decorations for so sacred a place as the church."

In addition to the above extract, it may be remarked, that we meet with the custom of garlands at funerals among the ancient Greeks and Romans. "They bestowed a garland upon the dead," says Suidas, "as upon victors, who had run the race, or fought it out." They frequently occur in the poets. Thus in *Propertius*, Lib. 3. Eleg. 16.

----- sertisque sepulchrum  
Ornabit, custos ad mea busta sedens.

*Tibullus*, Lib. 2. Eleg. 4.

----- veteres veneratus amores,  
Annua constructoserta dabit tumulo.

Besides these garlands, they strowed loose flowers about the monument:



----- manibus date lilia plenis :  
 Purpureos spargam flores ; animanque nepotis  
 His saltem accumulem donis, et fuhgar iuani  
 Munere.                      Æn. 6.

Handful of lilies and of roses bring,  
 With all the fragrant treasures of the spring ;  
 At least such offerings to his soul I owe,  
 With heavy heart such empty presents throw.

It was a practice of high antiquity in the East, to plant herbs and flowers about the graves of the dead. In modern times, the women in Egypt, according to Maillet,\* go, at least two days in the week, to pray and weep at the sepulchres of the dead ; and the custom then is, to throw upon the tombs, a sort of herb, which the Arabs call *rihan*, and which is our *sweet basil*. They cover them also with the leaves of the palm-tree. Myrtle is also made use of to adorn the tombs.

At the present day, there exists in Wales the custom of dressing graves with flowers, weekly ; which exhibits scenes of the most tender and interesting kind. The following lines are from a poem, entitled, " Pious Memory, occasioned by seeing the graves dressed with flowers, in Wales," from the pen of the unfortunate Dr. Dodd :---

O 'tis delicious to maintain  
 Of friends deceas'd a due respect :  
 Then bring me flow'rets, bring me greens,  
 Straight shall my parent's grave be deck'd:  
 And many a friend's, whom faithful love  
 Still keeps alive within my breast,  
 Luxuriously sad, I'll see  
 With choicest garlands, weekly drest.

---

\* Lett. X. p. 91.

It appears from the Octavius of Minutius Felix, an eminent Christian Apologist of the third century, that the primitive Christians refused to symbolize with the Heathen, as in other customs, so in that of placing garlands upon sepulchres, in honour of the dead. *Coronas etiam sepulchris denegatis*, "you refuse garlands to the sepulchres," says the Pagan to the Christian, in the interesting dialogue to which we refer. Minutius, translated by Reeves, 2. 76.

#### No. IV.

We insert the following biographical sketch of a respectable, though rather singular, Lady, who formerly resided for some time at Thirsk, and well remembered by many; from the entertaining pen of W. Hutton, F. A. S. S. in his "Trip to Coatham," 8vo. 1810.

---

Mrs Margaret Wharton was tall, thin, and lived to about ninety-one. She was said to have been possessed of £200,000. She had some inoffensive oddities, but more excellencies. She made a present to her nephew of one hundred thousand; an act of generosity practiced by few.

She chose to be her own caterer. Purchasing some eels, she put them in her pocket, entered her coach, and called upon a lady to take her an airing. The warmth of the body reviving the condemned

prisoners, one of them took the liberty of creeping out for a little air, being deprived of water. The friend cried out, in horror, "Madam! you have an adder creeping about you! Coachman, stop, stop! let me get out."---"You need not be frightened, madam," she said coolly: "I protest one of my eels is alive!"

Though she resided in York, she visited Scarborough in the season; and frequently sending for a pennyworth of stawberries and a pennyworth of cream for supper, the people conferred upon her the name of Peg Pennyworth, which never forsook her.

Her charities were boundless, but always private; nothing hurt her so much as to have them divulged. If any did proclaim them, she withdrew her benevolence; and nothing pleased her more than to be deemed rich.

An incident occurred, in which she displayed her aversion to public charity. Some gentlemen soliciting her favour, whom she could scarcely deny, (about the year 1774, when light guineas were in disgrace,) she pulled out a number of guineas, and, repeatedly turning them over, selected one of the lightest. This produced a few winks and smiles; but the matter did not rest here. The celebrated *Foot*, of comic memory, laid hold of the incident, and drew her character in a farce, under the name of Peg Pennyworth.

When she was informed of this circumstance, she exclaimed, with a smile, "I will see it acted, as I live." She did, and declared with joy, "They had done her great justice." A gentleman took her in his arms before the whole audience, and cried, "This the greatest fortune in Yorkshire!" which delighted her more; and no doubt she would be

equally delighted, if living, with this concise History of her Life. The entertainment over, a cry was repeated, "Peg's coach." They might have called me *Margaret*, however, said she.

In one of her visits to Scarborough, she, with her usual economy, had a family pye for dinner; she directed the footman to take it to the bakehouse, who rather declined it, as not being his place, or rather, his consequence would suffer.

She then moved the question to the coachman, but found a stronger objection. To save the pride of both, she resolved to take it herself; and ordered one to harness and bring out the carriage, and the other to mount behind, and took the pye thus dignified to the bakehouse; what pye had ever been so honourably conveyed! When baked, coachee was ordered to put to a second time, and the footman to mount: and the pye returned in the same honourable state. Now, says she to the coachman, you have kept your place, which is to drive; and yours, to the footman, which is to wait.

A clergyman's wife having kept up a visiting connexion in York, the clergyman dying, and leaving the lady in affluence, she retired to Thirsk with four daughters, and solicited Mrs Wharton to pay her a visit. She consented, took her carriage and servants. After some time, the lady began to think the visit rather protracted, particularly as she had a family of her own to provide for; but Mrs Wharton thought that treating the young ladies with a frequent airing in the carriage was an ample recompence.

A growing discontent cannot be smothered. The lady could neither find a remedy nor complain. At length she ventured to hint to Mr Wharton, "That the pressure was great." "Be silent, madam," said he, "let my aunt have her way."

I will pay you two hundred a year during the life of my aunt ; and one hundred during your own, should you survive her."

Mrs Wharton ended her days with this lady, and I believe the hundred a year is paid to this day.

Mrs Wharton's nephew, mentioned above, is John Hall Wharton, Esq. of Skelton Castle, M. P. for Beverley ; who, by the mother's side is said to be descended from the witty Duke of Wharton. His grandfather, John Hall Stevenson, Esq. of Skelton Castle is well known in the literary world, as the author of *Crazy Tales*, and other pieces. He was the intimate friend of Sterne, and his *Eugenius*, the continuator of his *Sentimental Journey*, and mentioned in several of his letters. He wrote a Greek Poem, descriptive of Cleveland ; with an English translation. The latter is inserted in Graves's History of Cleveland.\*

## No. V.

### TIMBER TREES.

Extract from Mr John Tuke's Survey of the Agriculture of the North Riding of Yorkshire.

---

" Most people, I think, concur in this point, that for the last half century, the wood in this kingdom has been terribly on the decline."

---

\* Young's Hist. of Whitby, 2. 849.

"That gloomy prospect is now become tremendous, and sufficiently visible to awaken the fears of every thinking person. The axe is often heard, but the planter is seldom seen. Let us cast our thoughts towards the future support and welfare of our navy---our sole protection!---and we must tremble at the continual disappearance of our oak. Some speedy method must be adopted to remedy this great national evil; or, besides the danger from fierce external foes, we must determine to go barefoot: we should never think of looking to foreign countries for a constant supply of oak-bark to tan our leather. Let Britain help herself! Each nobleman and gentleman should insert, in the agreement with his tenants, a clause to compel them to plant and protect, in the corner of their fields, and upon pieces of waste ground, a certain number of good oak, elm, and ash trees, annually. These trees should be found by the landlord; and he should enforce the performance of this clause as rigidly as the payment of the rent; then will the rising generation have cause to bless the wisdom and policy of the present age."

## No. VI.

Roger de Mowbray founded no fewer than thirty-five Religious Houses, such was the fashionable zeal of those times; among which was the priory of Newburgh, founded in the year 1145. The following Charter forms an interesting Appendix to our History :---

X 2

**The Charter of the Foundation of the Priory  
of Newburgh, translated from the  
Latin of Dugdale.**

---

*To all the Sons of our Holy Mother Church,*

Roger de Molbray sendethe greeting,---Be it known to you that I have given and granted to God and the church of St Mary of Newburgh, and to the Cannons there serving God, the place in which their abbey is built, and all the ground which lies to the East of Cukewald beyond the Vivarium, (the park or pond.) The church of St. Mary of Hode with the ground belonging to it, and the woodlands on the declivity of the neighbouring mountains, in the same manner it was before held by the Monks of Byland. The church of Cukewald, with nine oxgangs\* of land and the tofts and crofts, in that village, and with the chapels belonging to that church, namely the chapel of Kilburn, with one carucate of land, and the chapel of Thurkilby, with three oxgangs of land and certain tofts and crofts, the chapel of Silton with two oxgangs of land, the church of Tresc (Thirsk) with one carucate of land in that village and tofts and crofts in the borough, also the chappel of St. James with two oxgangs of land in the village with two tofts in the borough, also one carucate of land in Tresc, which Bartholomew Gigator held or occupied, with the tofts and crofts thereunto belonging. Also I grant to them and their tenants who live in the borough,

---

\* Oxgang of land, as much as one yoke of oxen can plough in a year.

all the liberties and easements which my burgesses have in the said borough of bying and selling in the market and out of the market, without paying tool or stallage, one oxgang of land in Tresc, heretofore in the possession of William the son of Catellus, which he had in exchange for one oxgang of land in Colton and one toft in Tresc, near the bar towards Kilvington between the house of Robert Colier and the house of Humphrey, also another toft between the toft of Helias, the son of Elwin, and the toft of William, the son of Robert, also the island of Tresc, which was the property of Richard the Priest, &c. &c. Also five acres of land in the territory of Baghy, near the road which leads to St. Felix, &c. &c. And whatsoever is reasonably conferred by the Freemen of my Fee, I do, by the testimony of this present writing, confirm and appoint to be held and possessed by the Church aforesaid in perpetual right, quit of homage, forfeits, foreign service, and all other secular service and demands, well and quietly, freely and honourably, as my just and lawful gift or alms. Those being witness,

Phillip de Mowbray, my brother  
 Robert de Mowbray, my brother  
 Roger de Daiville, my steward  
 Hugh Patric  
 Roger de Fontibus  
 William de Busie  
 Robert de Trihamton  
 Hugh, the son of William  
 Samson, Clark of Masham  
 Benedict, Clark of the Dean of York



## No. VII.

## EXTRACTS FROM DOMES-DAY BOOK.\*

(TRANSLATION.)

---

*Manor. In Tresche.* Orm had eight carucates to be taxed. Land to four ploughs. Twenty shillings.

*Manor. In Tresche.* Tor had twelve carucates of land to be taxed. There is land for six ploughs. Hugh has there ten villaines having two ploughs, and eight acres of meadow. Value in King Edward's time four pounds, now ten shillings.

Perhaps the above ancient orthography of *Tresche* may suggest a probable etymology of the name; from the British *Tre* a town, and *esk* (*wiske*) a river, that is, a town by the river.

---

\* This ancient and valuable record is now made public by order of the House of Lords. It was transcribed, and most accurately revised through the press by Abraham Farley, Esq. It has been translated by the Rev. W. Bawdwen, Vicar of Hooton-Pagnall, Yorkshire, under the title of "Dom Boc; a Translation of the Record, called Domesday." 4to.

# No. VIII.

The Population, Church Livings, &c. of THIRSK, and the neighbouring Villages.  
From the Clerical Guide; or, Ecclesiastical Directory, 1817. (With Corrections.)

	CH. LIVING.	POP.	ARCHDEAC.	INCUMBENT.	K's. BOOK.			PATRON.
					C.	S.	D.	
Thirsk	Perpet.Curacy	2155	Cleveland	Jonathan Holmes	40	0	0	Abp. of York
Sowerby	Do.	689	Do.	Ed. Greenwood	14	0	0	Do.
Sand-Hutton	Chapelry	240	Do.	J. Holmes	3	10	2	Do.
Topcliffe	Vicarage	589	Pec.	R. D. Waddilove, D. D.	19	19	2	D. & C. of York
Tessay	Rectory	292	Cleveland	Hon. W. H. Dawney	17	0	2½	M. of Downe
Birdforth	Chapelry	32	Do.	--- Overton	6	6	2	Abp. of York
Coxwold	Perpet.Curacy	289	Do.	Thomas Newton				T.E.W. Bellasyse
Thirkleby	Vicarage	281	Do.	T. Barker, Jun.	6	0	0	Abp. of York
Bagby	Chapelry	213	Do.	James Serjeantson	0	10	0	Ch. K. Knowle
Felixkirk	Vicarage	115	Do.	W. S. Donnison	10	0	0	Abp. of York
S. Kilvington	Rectory	229	Do.	John Green	17	10	10	Sid. Coll. Camb.
Kirby Knowle	Do.	129	Do.	James Serjeantson	8	2	1	Sir T. Frankland
Leake	Vicarage	193	Exem.	W. Warrington	16	0	0	Bp. of Durham
Thornton-le-St.	Do.		Do.	T. H. Fowle	4	0	0	D. & Cus. C.C.O.
Kirby Wiske	Rectory	150	Diocese of Ches. Rich.	Chr. Bethell	27	16	5½	D. of Northum.

## No. IX.

## UPSAL CASTLE.

Fuit Ilium, et ingens  
Gloria Teucrorum.

VIRG.

My muse, that loves to dwell in pensive mood,  
On nature's beauteous scenes and prospects fair;  
That sometimes wanders thro' th' embow'ring wood,  
Or climbs the hill to breathe the healthful air.

Now take thy stand amidst these ruin'd tow'rs,  
Where desolation holds her dreary reign;  
Where earthly grandeur wasting time devours,  
And mould'ring walls proclaim its honours vain.

Where UPSAL's stately mansion once could boast  
Magnificence, and wealth, and noble fame;  
Where guests illustrious met their generous host,  
Well pleas'd to honour MOWBRAY'S princely  
name.

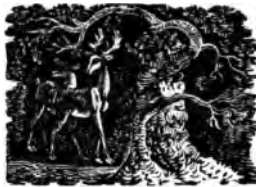
In later days, when civil discord spread  
Thro' all the land its mischiefs and alarms;  
Then UPSAL's lofty towers bow'd their head,  
And conquering time completes the work of arms.

O Hist'ry! what a bloody page is thine!  
What else but wars and mis'ries can'st thou boast!  
If in their laurel'd honours conquerors shine,  
What fathers, husbands, brothers, sons, were lost!

**My** muse, that desolation's waste now sings,  
O think of scenes, and warriors, now no more !  
Lament the woes that civil discord brings,  
And let thy tear Britannia's lot deplore.

Soon come the peaceful era, when no more,  
Shall war beat out her hateful, deadly spear ;  
When amity shall join each distant shore,  
And men to men affection shall endear.

Since earthly grandeur boasts no lasting date,  
And " gorgeous palaces," thus ruin'd lie ;  
Let me aspire to seek a nobler state,  
Nor rest in happiness beneath the sky.





## ADDENDA.



*Page 18.*

**N**OT many years ago, in one of the Western Windows of Upsal Castle, was to be seen cut out in relief, in stone, the representation of two persons in the act of raising up a pot or vessel, supposed to have a reference to the treasure found at Upsal, by which the castle was built.

*Page 27.*

Our historians have given the names of most of the great persons who died at Acre, 12th July, 1191, under Richard I. Among them, those which are interesting to the English reader, are, Ralph, Archdeacon of Colchester, Silvester the Seneschal of the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Earl Ferrers, Robert Scrope of Burton, Henry Pigot Seneschal of Lord Surrey, Walter Scrope, Mowbray, Talbot, and St. John.

*Page 37.*

Half a dozen copper coins, were harrowed up, on the West side of the Watch Tower Mount, near Sowerby, about 20 years ago.

*Page 43.*

About the year 1673, Sir Thomas Ingram, Knight, was one of the members in parliament for the borough of Thirsk. Possibly *Ingramgate* may have obtained its name from that gentleman, or some of his family.

*Page 54.*

From a similar inscription in Havant church, Hants, given in the Gentleman's Magazine, April 1795, we have been enabled to complete two of the imperfect lines, which are a sort of Monkish rhymes :

Es testis X'te q'd non jacet hic lapis este,  
Corpus ut ornetur, sed mors ut præmeditetur.

*Page 77.*

"Thrusk, a small borough town, which electeth Parliament Men, where there was once a most strong castle, hath a little market on Mondays, and is at present of some note for its *good ale*."--Bloome's Britannia, 1673.

*Page 92.*

In the motto, *Amore nimos*, the painter who executed the hatchment seems to have omitted a letter: perhaps the latter word should be *animos*.

*Page 105.*

After the year 1326, Sir Thomas de Coleville, Lord of Cukewold, Jone wife of John de Mowbray, William son of Hugh de Mallibisse, Guido de Halebeck, Henry de Montfort, William de Pleydun, and Roger de Maltby, were all interred at Byland Abbey. Peter de Richhal, Chaplain, by will proved 1359, was buried before the altar of St. Mary. William Triplady, by will proved 1426, was buried in the Gallilee\* of St. Mary's Abbey of Byland.

*Page 108.*

Among the gentlemen of fortune, who amuse themselves by an occasional application to the mechanical arts, we are pleased to find the name of Sir Thomas Frankland; whose ingenuity has not only afforded a rational and pleasant relaxation to himself, but has been productive of a discovery useful to the public. In the "Repertory of Arts and Manufactures," vol. V. we find an ingenious paper entitled, "*On Welding Cast Steel*." By Sir Thomas Frankland, Bart. F. R. S. From the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London."

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\* Sic, in two MS. copies. Perhaps gallery may be intended. The gallery of an abbey was very different from the gallery of a modern parish church. The word was formerly applied to the "part of a building made further than the rest of the house," a sort of portico.



*Page 113.*

"The Life of King David I. written by Alred, Abbot of Rievaulk," is now preserved in manuscript, among the Harleian MSS. Gent. Mag.

*Page 115.*

Another form of the proverb omits the latter words "to seek Old Byland," which perhaps may be more proper.

*Page 121.*

The more ancient name of Felixkirk was simply that of St. Felix, on account of the church being dedicated to that saint, as the present name implies.

*Page 123.*

St. John's Mount is the seat of the Rev. Heneage Elsley.

*Page 126.*

Dr. Bramhall, Archbishop of Armagh, an eminent prelate, was once Rector of South Kilvington. He was born at Pontefract, and died in 1663.

*Page 131.*

*New Building* in its present state retains a part of the more ancient mansion, particularly a lofty tower. The late Francis Smyth, Esq. F. A. S. had collected an extensive and valuable library, possessing some rare specimens of early typogra-

phy, and historical prints; with some curious antiquities; among which are, a knitting-sheath of Queen Elizabeth: it is of steel, heart-shaped, about two inches in length; with the royal arms, and initials E. R. 1581---a strong lock and key, of singular construction, which once belonged to a neighbouring abbey---a brazen dish, about two feet in diameter, embossed in the centre, with an inscription in Saxon Capitals---ancient armour, &c. New Building was once the property and residence of Sir Thomas Rokeby, Knight, a Justice in the Court of King's Bench, and an ancestor of the present family, who have in their possession an original painting of the Judge in his robes of office. Besides his professional talents, his Lordship was eminent for the piety of his sentiments and character, as appears from some valuable manuscripts left behind him.

*Page 143.*

The peculiarly affecting case of Lady Alicia Lisle, may be known to some of our readers. She was tried in 1685, by Judge Jefferies, for concealing in her house Mr. John Hickes, and another person, adherents of the Duke of Monmouth. The jury thrice returned not guilty, but Jefferies by threats and scurrility obliged the jury to find her guilty. She was sentenced to be *burned*, but in respect of her rank, she was beheaded at Winchester, universally pitied---a venerable widow, more than seventy

years old, and who had afforded refuge to persons as persecuted for religion, without the least suspicion of their having been concerned with Monmouth. At the revolution, the parliament reversed the sentence, and annulled the attainder of this injured Lady, and made her family all the reparation in their power. See State Trials, vol. iv.

*Page 144.*

A considerable quantity of antient painted glass, taken out of the windows of Kirby Wiske Church, when they were new glazed in 1811, now adorns the "window richly dight" of the library of a gentleman near Wakefield.



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## ERRATA.

Page 16 line 23, for gothic, read their.

- 35 14, during the progress of the work through the press, an error has crept in, relative to the battle of Brāinham Moor, which is there called the **WHITE BATTLE**. The sentence beginning 'On account of the number of ecclesiastics,' should have been inserted in page 33, after the quotation from Hardyng's chronicle, respecting the battle of Myton.
- 64 12, in some copies, for initis, read initio.
- 80 18, for a part of, read connected with.
- 94 17, in some copies, for Judæcorum, read Judæorum.
- 105 10, for Wismund, read Wimund.
- 111 17, for 10, read 6 miles.
- 128 note, for Baredale, read Basedale.
- 132 10, for abutments, read butments.
- 142 22, in some copies, for Thesausus, read Thesaurus, and for Gramuatica, Grammatica.











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